

BENGAL DISTRICT RECORDS, MIDNAPUR.

VOL. II.

1768-1770.

EDITED BY

WALTER K. FIRMINGER, B.D., F.R.G.S.,
ARCHDEACON OF CALCUTTA.

Editor of BENGAL PAST & PRESENT.

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PREFACE.

In the Introduction to the earlier volume,* I have stated that in 1908 one of the volumes of Midnapur Letters was not available for my researches. This volume has in the past year been placed at my disposal, and consequently Letters A1 to A50, belonging to the years 1765 and 1766, form the commencement of the present Volume.

The following letters, derived from the Home Miscellanies Series, No. 787, of the India Office Records, relate to Midnapur, and are of some interest.

[To H. VERELST.]

DUM DUMMA :
29th December, 1765.

DEAR SIR,

I know very well Mr. Senior's condition with the Rajah of Burdwan to receive 1,50,000 Rupees, and that he received a part thro' the hands of Mr. Graham and my intelligence says that this Mr. Graham also received more than one lack on his own account. The Rajah can make you acquainted with these matters, and I wish you would come at them because it may be necessary to have such anecdotes to frighten people into their duty to the Company, if no other use be made of them.

I hear a certain Gentleman employs spies to watch all our actions, your's and Sykes' in particular, but we may serve them as Scipio did those sent by Hannibal—lead them at noon day thro' every department in which we are concern'd and then dismiss them, telling them they may go and tell their master all they know.

I am,
DEAR SIR,
Your affec Friend and servant,
CLIVE.

CALCUTTA :
26th December, 1765.

SIR,

I received your Letter of the 20th instant, and immediately communicated the contents of it to the Members of the Select Committee, not knowing that you intended transmitting to them a copy of it yourself. Why you took that unnecessary trouble at the expence of so ill a compliment to me, can only be conjectured from the insinuation it palpably, and not very pertinently conveys. By comparing of dates, you might have observed that the letter from the Committee must have been despatched before I received your's; and Mr. Sumner could have informed you, that although

*Bengal District Records, Midnapur, 1763-1767

it came to my hands at a time when business was much interrupted by public entertainments, yet it was resolved that a letter of thanks should be written to you acknowledging our sense of that instance of your zeal for the service, which zeal, however, would have been more conspicuous to me had it been shown before you received a letter from the Governor and Council, and knew that a strict enquiry would be made into the state of the revenues of the Midnapore and Jelasore Provinces

With respect to the reflection that you imagine is now throwing upon you, permit me to acquaint you, that the appointment of a Supervisor was a measure fixed upon among ourselves long before you were nominated for the Residentsip, that nothing was further from our intention than a diminution of your authority, and that, altho' it was judged expedient to have the revenues of Midnapore (which we knew could bear an increase) accurately enquired into, and clearly stated by a gentleman of the rank of Councillor, yet the office of Supervisor was entirely to have ceased as soon as that business should have been completed. The effect of your remonstrance upon this occasion, to the Select Committee, you will be informed of in due time

I am, etc ,

CLIVE

JOHN GRAHAM Esq.,
Resident at Midnapore

TO H VERELST, Esq

DUM DUMMA

27th December, 1765

DEAR SIR,

Mr Strachey has already sent you Mr Graham's letter to the Committee and copy of one from me to that same Gentleman

To-day we met in Committee and after settling some useful instructions to be given to the Commissary General about the payment of our army and their attendants, we entered upon the subject of Mr Graham's letter. Our good friend S would have had us sink Mr Graham's information and suspended our resolution of appointing you Supervisor untill next year, but I value my honour and reputation too dearly to entrust either in such hands, (who can say what advantage might have been taken against me by such people for concealing intelligence of fraud committed upon the Company themselves), and I have the interest of my employers too much at heart to lose them the benefit of your assistance even for a month much less for a year. Your appointment therefore stands good, and I hope you will soon be able to go there and settle these revenues, for your presence will soon be wanted here

Mr Sumner has given in a very long minute in answer to mine about the Calcutta Lands and he has endeavoured to prove that the charges attending the Collection of the Burdwan lands amounts to 24½ per cent.,

that is to say, instead of stating the charges at 1,60,000, he states them at 6 lacks fifty odd thousand rupees by charging near five lacks for 460 000 bogums (*sic*) of lands allowed the officers of the Government Rent free. It appears to me that Sumner has gone upon a wrong foundation. However this matter and all others I am persuaded you will explain to me when you receive a copy of Mr Sumner's minute, which I have ordered Campbell to send to you.

I hope you will not forget Mr Johnstone's minute, and that you will make such discoveries as may enable you to give that Gentleman such an answer as his impertinence and principles deserve.

If you have an account of the Chittagong revenues and disbursements, I wish you would send them me. Remember me to Maskelyne and believe me to be,

DEAR SIR,

Your sincere Friend and Servant,

CLIVE

DUM DUMMA

3rd January, 1766

DEAR SIR,

I have this instant received yours of the 31st December.

My time here at present is employed in preparing an answer to Mr Sumner's last minute, but I cannot conclude until you hear from Sykes about the Revenues of the Provinces and until I receive your sentiments in full about the Bardwan charges which he makes to amount to 24 per cent.

Mr Graham in his first letter to me says he believes the Midnapore and Jallissore Revenues may be increased 75,000 or 80 000 Rupees but not more. In a second letter he informs me he has made further discoveries by which he finds the lands will pay more than one lack of Allah Siccas, and in his third and last letter he finds they may be increased to Allah Siccas 117,000 and sends me the particulars copy of which I now enclose to you. He concludes with desiring to know the nature of your office, whether you are to inspect the Revenues only, etc, etc. My answer is "Mr Verelet in the character of Supervisor, is certainly to be considered as your Principal in every respect, but as I told you in my last letter his appointment is only temporary. When the Revenues of the Provinces are perfectly settled the management of them will be left to yourself."

For Watts I feel some degree of compassion (who entre nous is a poor creature), but for Beaumont I feel much real concern. The public manner in which Mr. Graham has arraigned the conduct of his predecessors makes it impossible for us to be silent. That steady impartial and disinterested conduct which we have manifested upon all occasions must be carried on and supported throughout, or we shall expose ourselves to the animadversions of Sumner and Graham. We must state the plain matter of fact, and

either decide upon it ourselves, or leave it, as we did in the case of Johnstone etc., to the final determination of the Court of Directors For my own part I think a prosecution at law will at last be the consequence The money so received might as well have been taken out of the public Treasury, and I have not the shadow of a doubt but the same game has been play'd in the Calcutta Lands and that I shall discover the Frauds at last, but the discovery is much more difficult than at Midnapore, the Calcutta Lands being manag'd by a parcell of Calcutta Banians who are hickneyd in the ways of iniquity

Your absence from Calcutta must not exceed the 18th By that time Sykes will be down, and when these members are all present, I intend springing the Grand Mine, viz an oath and penalty bond upon the Governor that he shall carry on no trade whatever or benefit himself one farthing beyond what is stipulated, etc

Whether this Regulation is to take place upon the answer to our dispatch by the *Admiral Stevens* or immediately, it is but just Sumner should be apprised of our intentions that he may have time to settle his mercantile concerns If Sumner succeeds me in this Government I shall leave India with the satisfaction of knowing it to be out of his power to prejudice the Company If you should be my successor (which I most ardently wish), I am persuaded near 40,000 per annum, exclusive of the Company's allowance will satisfy you or half the money

On new years' day Leicester handed Mrs Sumner into the Ball Room sat next her at supper and danc'd with her, George Gray as usual with Mrs Grant, and on the Generals' public day he sent no excuse that he was engag'd, and after having made the General wait for some time he receiv'd information the Gentleman was gone to a great chevaux at Mr. Gray's Birds of a feather will flock together

I am,

DEAR SIR,

Your sincere Friend and obedient Servant,
CLIVE.

HARRY VERELST, Esq.,
At Durducun

MY LORD,

I have just received your Lordship's favour advising the departure of the four Gentlemen from Madrass A letter from Calcutta to me on the subject says that a letter from Madrass mentions four of the Councillors being just on the point of embarking from (for?) Bengall whither they had been solicited by the Select Committee to come down in order to fill up the Council, that people talked strangely of it and spared not to speak their minds with the utmost freedom in all companies, as that Rumbold has been wrote to and it was expected he would resign on its account as well as Dick Darwell and many others I hope they will think better of it, the former being a most worthy deserving man I should be sorry to see disgusted,

and the latter if he waits a little till the motives of our proceedings are published can have no reason to be so. I hope the Gentlemen are arrived at Calcutta by this time, and wish they had come with the news. Four such worthy characters must I think ensure full execution of the measures established for a disinterested conformity to them will ever be their greatest recommendation.

I have been doing my utmost to get affairs settled here before this time but of all the intricate concerns I have met with this has been the greatest—bad men—an entire new sett of accounts to form, every insight into them to be had only from those whose interest it was to keep one most in the dark, have I had to struggle with. I have now got thro' the worst parts, tho' many of the Zemindars have not yet appeared, and hope in four or five days at most to have everything adjusted by the 26th inst. I have work'd to the utmost of my powers, and would not have been absent after the 16th could I have prevented it. I shall lay before you many reformatations, an immediate increase of revenue, and a plan for a further very considerable increase, which if attended to will shortly double the Revenue of the Provinces of Midnapore and Jallasore. If your Lordship can complete the plan for an adjustment with the Morattoes for the Cuttack Districts, it will hasten the cultivation of the lands in this country which have been deserted from the frequent incursions of those people. A total neglect seems to have regularly succeeded each Resident—their emoluments I am afraid too much blinded the attention they ought to have shewn in their duty to the Company. This to each and his Devan or Banyan has not been less than one hundred and six thousand Allah Rs per annum or Calcutta current Rupees near one Lack and thirty thousand. In Mr Berumont's time I find it amounted to more from the very great rapaciousness of his Duran more than others.

I am, with the greatest regard,

SIR,

H VERELST

13th January, 1766

At the end of this paper is added in pencil "my fathers' handwriting"

The George Vansittart of these pages is a younger brother of Henry Vansittart, Governor at Fort William. He had, before coming to Midnapore served as interpreter to Major Munro during his campaign in Bihar. On Oct 24, 1767 George Vansittart married in Calcutta Sarah, daughter of the Rev Sir James Stonhouse, Bart. Two of his children earned places in the *Dictionary of National Biography*—General George, and Admiral Henry, Vansittart. The Governor seems uniformly to have written his name—Van Sittart.

Governor Verelst in his *View of the English Government in Bengal* (p. 77.) thus states the nett revenue of "the Midnapore Province from May 1760 to April 1770."

May to the end of April.				Cur. Rupees.
1760—1761	Cash received	...	...	116,925
1761—1762	"	...	...	857,983
1762—1763	"	.	...	743,330
1763—1764	"	...	...	748,777
1764—1765	"	...	...	590,932
1765—1766	"	...	...	782,055
1766—1767*	"	...	...	1,005,882
1767—1768	"	..	...	884,390
1768—1769	"	...	...	973,051
1769—1770	"	...	...	902,149

The year marked with an asterisk is the year, in which Verelst was Supervisor. The apparent decrease in the three succeeding years is attributed by Verelst to extraordinary expenses "incurred to reduce some rebellious Zemindars upon the borders of the province," but he adds "the actual receipts never fell short of the increased rents established during the last four years."

WALTER K. FIRMINGER.

(CALCUTTA :

February 19th, 1915.

ADDITIONÁL LETTERS, .
1765-66.

No A 1

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM
3rd January, 1765

To HUGH WATTS, Esq.,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 30th ultimo

We approve of your intention of sending muster of goods of a superior quality to those which have been already provided at your Factory, and, when received a report and directions in consequence shall be sent you

You must govern yourself in your provision of the next Season's investment by the list for the present which was transmitted with our letter of the 26th of August, and in concluding the present year's, we would only have the list completed as nearly as possible

We are, etc,

J SPENCER,
C S PLAYDELL
RALPH LEYCE TER,
JOHN BUI DETT.

No A 2

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM
14th Jany, 1765
[Received Jany 16th]

To HUGH WATTS, Esq.,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 10th instant, and in consequence of your representation, shall approve of your increasing the Investment in the finer sortment of .

We are, etc,

J SPENCER
C S PLAYDELL
RALPH LEYCE-TEE.

No. A 3

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM
Jany 26th, 1764

To MR ANSELM BEAUMONT,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

The Nabob having advised the Resident that he hath issued five Sun Sicca Rupees at the Mints of Moorshedabad and Patna, we have likewise ordered Siccas of that year to be struck in our Mint, and to become Current at 16 per cent batta on the 25th February next, after which 4 Suns will be received into the Company's Treasury at 13 per cent only, and the Rupees of all the other years will be of . Sonnants You will be careful, therefore, to regulate yourself accordingly in the receipt of the revenues after that date.

We are, etc ,
HENRY VAN SITTART,
WM BILLERS,
WARREN HASTINGS,
RANDL MARRIOTT,
JOHN BURDETT.

 No A 4.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM
28th Feb , 1765

To HUGH WATTS, Esq ,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We have received your several letters of the 5th 7th, 8th, 15th and 22nd instant with the different dispatches of Treasure and Cloth

And having caused an extract of the first to be sent to the Mint Master with directions to lay before us the report therein pointed out, we have this day received a letter in answer from him of which we enclose you herewith a copy, and desire you will in consequence send us specimens of your different species of rupees

We are, etc ,
J SPENCER,
C S PLATDELL,
J. BURDETT,
GEORGE GRAY

 No A 5

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM
28th February, 1765

To HUGH WATTS, Esq.,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

We have received your several letters of the 5th, 7th 8th, 15th and 22nd instant with the different dispatches of treasure and cloth

And having caused an extract of the first to be sent to the Mint Master with Directions to lay before us the report therein pointed out, we have this day received a letter in answer from him of which we enclose you herewith a copy and desire you will in consequence send us specimens of your different species of rupees

We are, Sir, etc ,
J SPENCER,
C S PLAYDELL,
J BURDETT,
GEORGE GRAY

ENCLOSURE

CAICUTTA

The 24th February, 1765

TO THE HON'BLE JOHN SPENCER, Esq ,
President and Governor, and Council, etc

GENTLEMEN,

You will perceive the impossibility of stating the Assay and Mint produce of Gear Saul, Bazeo Ruckum and Bagennus Arcot rupees, as requested by Mr Watts from the following explanation of these terms

Gear Sauls consist of Patana and counterfeit Arcot rupees greatly debased, but in no fixed or certain degree Accordingly it scarce ever happens that two parcels shall agree in the assay, and of consequence the produce must be various

Bazeo Ruckums of Banarra, Lucknow, Arcot and other rupees all that weight. The standard of which rupees being widely different, the produce will depend on the proportions of each in the mixture

Bagennus rupees are also a mixture composed of Bombay, Patna, Dacca and Muxadabad rupees and likewise of French and English Arcots all short weight, the produce of which must be uncertain for the reasons assigned above

These are the mixed parcels which in the mint we call Ponch Mail, from their being supposed to contain five different species of rupees which it was customary to value 3 per cent. better than Arcots, although I have known them to rise to four and sent to $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2, only since . . .

Should Mr Watts think proper to send specimens of each species which he mentions, I will report the assay and produce of the musters but this, I apprehend can never determine the mean value, or enable him to fix a better, except when the same proportion of fine and coarse silver are observed in the mixed parcel

I am, etc ,
ALEXANDER CAMPBELL,
Mint Master

(4)

No. A 6.

FORT WILLIAM
7th March, 1765.

TO HUGH WATTS, ESQ.,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,
We herewith enclose you Invoice... . Receipts for a supply of Iron which in consequence of your letter of the 22nd ultimo. We directed the Naval Store Keeper to forward to you

We are Sir,
Your most obedient servants,
J SPENCER,
C. S. PLAYDELL,
J. BURDETT,
GEORGE GRAY

No A 7.

FORT WILLIAM -
March the 21st, 1765

TO HUGH WATTS, ESQ.,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,
We have received your letter of the 7th and 9th instant
An extract of the letter has been sent to the Mint Master together with the Samples of Rupees accompanying it and his Report when received shall be duly communicated to you And we have agreed to allow Mr. Hatley 100 Arcot Rupees for his way charge.

We are, Sir,
Your most obedient servants,
J SPENCER,
C. S. PLAYDELL,
GEORGE GRAY.

No A 8.

TO HUGH WATTS, ESQ.,
Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM
9th May, 1765

SIR,
The Export Warehouse Keeper has this day laid before us a report of the samples of cloth received with your letter of the 29th ultimo; of which we transmit you enclosed a copy for your information and guidance, and, as he will forward to you the samples of seersuchas at the same time applied for We desire you will send him down others, as well of them as of the cloths now returned you, to remain in the warehouse.

We are, Sir,
Your most obedient servants,
CLIVE,
WM. B SUMNER,
C. S. PLAYDELL,
JOHN JOHNSTONE,
FRAS SYKES,
J. BURDETT.

ENCLOSURE

FORT WILLIAM
The 9th May, 1765

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE ROBERT, LORD CLIVE,
President and Governor, and Council

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Agreeable to your orders of the 6th instant, I have strictly inspected musters of cloths sent from Midnapore and compared them with those in the Company's Warehouse, to which I find they are greatly superior in quality and highly deserving the advance they bear on last year's prices

I shall return the musters to Midnapore, and at the same time, send the muster¹ of seersuckas² Mr. Watts has wrote for

I am, etc ,
O S PLAYDELL,
Export Warehouse Keeper.

No A 9

FORT WILLIAM
The 15th May, 1765.

TO HUGH WATTS, ESQ ,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

Having resolved to enforce the orders issued by the President and Council for recalling all free merchants and other Europeans who reside in the country under protection of the English name we hereby require you to pursue such measures as you judge will most effectually answer the intention of the Select Committee, and, at the expiration of one month after due notice given, to convey all such persons in security to Calcutta, it being our determination to see the Company's injunctions strictly obeyed

We are, etc ,
CLIVE,
WM B SUMNER,
FRAS STILES

No. A 10

FORT WILLIAM
The 21st June, 1765

TO HUGH WATTS, ESQ ,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

Enclosed we transmit you an extract of a letter received from the Gentlemen at Burdwan and direct that you will cause the band therein mentioned to be accordingly cut, unless it should appear that it will be

¹ Muster from Portuguese *mor ra* a pattern or sample. ² Seersuckas *sir*—head *sukh*—pleasure a turban

No. A 12

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM

3rd July, 1765

(Received 8th July, 1765)

To HUGH WATTS, Esq.,
Resident at Midnapore

Sir,

We have received your letter of the 21th ultimo, but suspend our determination on the subject thereof till the receipt of the survey you advise Captain Du Gloss is making, which this therefore serves to desire may be forwarded as soon as possible.

We are, Sir,
Your most obedient servants,

WM. B. SUMNER,
H. VENABLE,
FRAS STAES,
R. LEYCESTER,
J. BURNETT,
GEORGE GRAY.

No A 13

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM,

22nd July, 1765.

(Received 21th Do)

To HUGH WATTS, Esq.,
Resident at Midnapore

Sir,

The President has communicated to us the purport of your letter of the . instant, in respect to your proceeding to Ballasore for restoring to the French their factory there, and we have in consequence appointed another Commissary

We have received your letter of the 9th instant, and have transmitted a copy thereof, with copy of the remarks and the sum referred to in it to the Gentlemen at Burdwan, desiring their further sentiments, before we come to a determination on the subject

Enclosed we transmit you a petition which has been presented to us from a family residing in the Coosa Jura Pergannah, and desire you will enquire into their plea, and, if it be just, prevent in future the oppression they complain of.

We are, &c.,
WM. B. SUMNER,
C. S. PLAYDELL,
R. LEYCESTER,
J. BURNETT,
GEORGE GRAY.

ENCLOSURE

TO THE HON'BLE WILLIAM BRIGHTWELL SUMNER, Esq, President and
Governor of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa

The humble petition of Lallcaun
Moozimooday, Seck Roinooday and
Mullack Itamwoodey, inhabitants and
Rototts of Pergunnah Cassijura in the
Province of Midnapore

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR,

That your petitioners from the life time of their parents and great grandfathers for this long period having dwelt and inhabited in the said Pergunnah Cassijura, upon lands given them or the Mussulmen from the Moor King as charity, for which they, your Petitioners' parents or predecessors never did nor used to pay any rent (agreeable to the purwannahs granted the Mussulmen by the Subahs), to the Zemindar of the said Pergunnah Cassijura, may it please Your Honor that Rajah Raj Narain, Zemindar of the aforesaid pergunnah having lately sent out peons to press upon your Petitioners and their family in order to bring your Petitioners to consent to pay as extravagant tush (*sic*) treacherously established by the said Raj Narain on the grounds appropriated by your Petitioners and others, the Mussulmen's ground given as gratis aforesaid by the Subahs, being oppressed with violence and hardship, Your Honor's Petitioners have thought proper with their poor families to fly and resort to the protection and shadow of Your Honor for justice humbly conceiving that such deplorable case of your poor Petitioners will have weight with Your Honor's gracious consideration and thereby be restored to their former rights agreeably as to Your Honor will seem most reasonable To the end Your Honor's Petitioners humbly crave that these your Petitioners may be granted a perwannah in the name of Hugh Watts Esq, Jondar and Resident at Midnapore, that that Gentleman will be pleased to examine into the case of these poor Petitioners, and grant them justice agreeable to equity as to the aforesaid Gentleman shall seem meet

And your Honor's Petitioners shall ever, as
in duty bound, pray, etc

No A 14

FORT WILLIAM
The 25th July, 1765
(Received 26th Do)

TO HUGH WATTS, Esq,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the President and the members of the Select Committee to request that you will order the accompanying Advertisement to be circulated among the Free Merchants and other Europeans residing in and about Midnapore, and that you will procure the

most exact account in your power of their names and places of abode which you will please to transmit to the Select Committee before the expiration of the time specified in the Advertisement.

I have, etc.

ALEX. CAMPBELL,
Secretary, S[elect] C[ommittee]

ENCLOSURE.

Fort William, 26th July, 1765.

*By Order of the Right Hon'ble the President and Members of the
Select Committee*

Public Notice is hereby given that the liberty of residing up the country, lately given to Free Merchants and others for collecting and finally settling their concerns, will positively cease, and the Company's protection wholly withdrawn on the 21st day of October; it being the absolute determination of the Select Committee not to extend their indulgence beyond that period, nor to suffer any violation of the Company's orders for recalling the Free Merchants

It is, therefore, to be hoped that such public and early advertisement of the intentions of the Committee will prevent all persons concerned from incurring the evil consequences that may insure to them and their constituents from a disregard to this actual repeal of the Company's protection, or from a refractory behaviour and positive act of disobedience to the express orders of the Hon'ble Court of Directors

ALEX. CAMPBELL,
Sec, S C

No A 15

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM
The 15th August, 1765.
(Received 18th August, 1765)

TO HUGH WATTS, ESQ.,
Resident at Midnapore
SIR,

In consequence of a representation from the Commissary General, we are to desire you will call upon Captain Du Gloss to give bills on him in favor of the Board in like manner as the Pay Master at your Factory for the different sums you have advanced him since he has been on service in the province, and that this method may be regularly observed for all future allowances which you may make him.

We are, etc.,
WM B. SUMNER,
C. S. PLAYDELL,
H. VERELST,
RALPH LEYCESTER,
J. BURDETT

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

FORT WILLIAM.

The 9th September, 1765

(Received 14th September, 1765)

TO HUGH WATTS, ESQ.,

Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

The War which has for sometime past subsisted against Shuja Dowla¹ having now been brought to a conclusion, and a treaty of peace executed with him, the same will accordingly be proclaimed here on Thursday, the 12th instant, and we transmit you enclosed a copy of the proclamation that it may be also published at your Factory

We are, etc.,

OLIVE,
WM R SUMNER,
FRAS SYKES,
R LEYCESTER

ENCLOSURE.

BY THE RIGHT HON'BLE THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL OF FORT WILLIAM
A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas a conclusion is put to the War which the Hon'ble the United East India Company in conjunction with the Nizam of these Provinces have for some time past been carrying on against the Nabob Shuja O Dowla, and a firm and lasting peace is established between the said parties and ratified by his Majesty Shah Allum² all manner of persons whom it doth or may concern are hereby given to understand the same, and all those who are subject of the Honorable Company's Government, or in any ways residing under their jurisdiction, are required to consider the said Nabob Shuja O Dowla as their true and faithful Friend and Ally

Given in Council at Fort William this ninth day of September in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty five

A true Copy.

W. MAJENDIE,
Secretary

By Order,

(Signed) W. MAJENDIE,
Secretary

¹ Shuja 'u-d daulah

² Shah 'Alam

No. A 17.

FORT WILLIAM :

*The 24th October, 1765.**(Recd. 28th October, 1765.)*

To HUGH WATTS, Esq.,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We transmit you enclosed the list of investment ordered from your Factory for the ships of this season in the general list received per *Grenville* with copies of several observations and instructions contained therein, and we desire your entire attention to and compliance with them, as also with respect to the several articles of the investments, as far as it may be possible to make of them.

We further send you two extracts from the Company's General Letter received at the same time, and desire you will be particularly careful to get your investment down always as early as possible agreeable to the instructions contained in the one; and, in consequence of the other, transmit us in future regularly and in proper time two sets of your General Books, that one may be sent home with those of the Presidency.

You will be pleased to send us a statement of your Factory to the end of this month to be transmitted to the Court of Directors by the return of the *Grenville*.

We are, etc.,

CLIVE,
 WM. B. SUMNER,
 JOHN CARNAC,
 H. VERELST,
 R. LEYCESTER,
 GEORGE GRAY.

ENCLOSURE.

Copy of the 12th Para. of the Hon'ble Company's General Letter to Fort William, dated the 15th February, 1765.

We cannot comply with your desire that vessels may be sent out of the size of the *Royal George* for bringing home the remains of your investment, for we find the expences of such vessels would be far greater than the advantages arising from any services they could render the Company. We, therefore, recommend it as an object very deserving of your attention to get down the whole of the investment so early as to admit of our ships being dispatched in time to get out of the River without danger of losing their passages.

A true copy.

W. MAJENDIE,
Secretary.

No. A 18.

FORT WILLIAM

The 7th November, 1765

(Recd 10th do)

TO HUGH WATTS, Esq ,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

This serves purposely to desire you will immediately transmit us an exact statement of what you compute will be the whole of your investment of this season, deducting from the foot the dispatches already made

We are, etc ,

CLIVE,
WM B SUMNER,
JOHN CARNAC,
H VERELST

No A 19

FORT WILLIAM

23rd December, 1765

(Recd 31st do)

TO MR. JOHN GRAHAM,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 20th instant, and have ordered the required mutwas for carrying to us your intended despatch of treasure and goods to be sent to Gongacolly accordingly

We are, etc ,

CLIVE
WM B SUMNER,
JOHN CARNAC,
HUGH WATTS

No A 20

FORT WILLIAM

27th December, 1765

[Recd 31st do]

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

In answer to your letter of the 24th instant, we are to observe that your accompanying it with a copy of your private letter to the President seems to imply a very improper reflection upon his Lordship's conduct

We had separately perused that letter before your public letter arrived, and you ought to have been very certain that His Lordship had not communicated it before you ventured on so hasty a conclusion

You have equally mistaken the meaning of the Board, at least of the Committee, when they assign their reasons for recalling the late Resident

They never supposed the presence of a member of the Board was unnecessary, but only that his residence was not requisite. In consequence of this opinion, Mr. Verelst was appointed Supervisor, with a view to fixing the collections particularly; after which it was intended his appointment should cease, and the management of affairs rest with you. Nor can this measure be construed into a distrust either of your integrity or ability, since it was resolved upon long before your nomination. Yet were it otherwise, we must be allowed to judge the degree of confidence to be reposed in any of the Company's servants.

At the same time we beg leave to express our approbation of the zeal you have shewn for the publick service and the Company's interest, which cannot be more effectually promoted than by cutting of those illicit emoluments specified in your letter to the President.

We are, Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servants,

OLIVE,
JOHN CARNAC.

No. A 21.

FORT WILLIAM.
31st March, 1766.
[Received 6th April.]

To MR. JOHN GRAHAM,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We have received your letters dated the 5th, 10th and 18th instant.

You will observe it as a rule in future, from October to March, to send up the *Monthly Statement* of your Factory to be transmitted to Europe by the ships that may be despatched during that time.

We are, etc.,
H. VERELST,
HUGH WATTS,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
WM. ALDERSEY,
THOS. KELSALL.

No. A 22.

FORT WILLIAM.
April 2nd, 1766.
[Answ. 25th April.]

To MR. JOHN GRAHAM,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We have received your letters of the 11th and 24th ultimo.

We cannot think of lowering the price we have fixed for the sale of our salt at Anundpoor,¹ as we are of opinion that the salt trade from that place towards Patna proves greatly detrimental to the markets in those parts, and, if the merchants could purchase it at a less price than what has already been settled by us, they would have it in their power to undersell...

¹ Anandpur—Vide *Bengal District Gazetteers* Vol XX, p 206

the market near Patna, as they can buy it up at a much less expense than we possibly can. By this you will perceive that our intention is where the markets are supplied both by us and the merchants to keep a poise in both.

The orders you have given regarding the golahs at Anundpoor meet with our approbation, as does your appointment of a gomastah, and the list of servants you propose employing with the allowances you have fixed for them.

We desire you will make enquiry and inform us of the different roads the beparees take who have gone to Busta to purchase salt, that we may take some effectual method to put a stop to such illicit trade.

We are, etc ,

H VERELST,
HUGH WATTS

No A 23

FORT WILLIAM
The 7th April, 1766
[Answ 13th April]

To MR JOHN GRAHAM,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

Agreeably to the resolution of the Hon'ble Board of the 3rd ultimo whereby all Europeans in Bengal who are not in the Company's Service are ordered to send in to the Secretary to the Council their names, dates of arrival, places of abode, and authority for residing in India I am directed by them to require your strict compliance with this order at your Residency as soon as possible.

I am, etc ,

WM ALDERSEY,
Secretary.

No A 24

COMMITTEE OF TRADE,
FORT WILLIAM
11th April, 1766
[Received 13th Answ 25th]

To MR JOHN GRAHAM,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR

We now forward to you an order from Major Stibbert to the persons who have charge of the collaries that belonged to him and Mr Hare, directing them to deliver over to you the salt that has been made at them this season—which we request you will receive, and work the collaries for the remainder of the season on account of the Society.

We are etc ,

H VERELST,
H WATTS

No A 25

FORT WILLIAM
The 14th April, 1766.
[Answ 19th April]

To Mr JOHN GRAHAM,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

To prevent the many inconveniences that arise from delaying the examination of the monthly accounts of the Subordinate Factories, we now positively direct that in future they be constantly despatched to us by the 15th of the succeeding month at furthest, which you are carefully to attend to, and require of all persons to draw for their pay or allowances as they become due, that they may regularly appear in the month they properly belong to and this you must observe as standing rule with respect to all charges whatever

We are, etc,

H VERELST,
RAND MARRIOTT,
H WATTS
CLAUD RUSSELL,¹
W ALDERSEY,
THOS KELSALL

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF CONSULTATION, 14TH APRIL, 1766

[Received with Mr Verelst's letter of the 23rd April]

As Mr Graham received his instructions for making a circuit of the Midnapore and Jellasore Provinces from the Select Committee his observations should have been addressed to them or to Mr Verelst the Supervisor of those Provinces under whose immediate directions Mr Graham was ordered to act

It is therefore, unanimously resolved that Mr Graham's address to the Board on that subject is not only quite irregular but that the manner in which he speaks of the resolutions of this Board are highly unbecoming the style of his letter in general authoritative and by no means consistent with the respect we shall insist on from every inferior

AGREED, therefore, that Mr Graham's letter be delivered to Mr Verelst and that he be desired to make him acquainted with these our sentiments

No A 26

FORT WILLIAM
28th April, 1766

[Received 2nd May, Answ 10th May]

To Mr JOHN GRAHAM
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 19th instant with accounts and bills of exchange therein advised of enclosed

¹ Russell Aldersey Kelsall and Floyer were the Company's servants brought up from Madras by Clive to supersede the Bengal Civilians

The method you have observed in your accounts for March for converting the rupees actually received into Alla Siccas and Calcutta currency is entirely approved of, and you will accordingly continue the same in future

We are, etc ,
H VERELST,
RANDL MARRIOTT,
H WATTS,
CLAUD RUSSELL
THOS KELSALL,
CHARLES FLOYER

No A 27

(COMMITTEE OF TRADE
FORT WILLIAM
3rd May, 1766
(Recd 6th do Answ 19th do)

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM,
At Midnapore

SIR

We have received your letter of the 25th ultimo, and accept of the terms you offer for the salt that has been, and will be, made this season at the Collaries late Messrs Stubberts and Hare's The amount that has been advanced by these Gentlemen you must account with them for

We desire you will intimate to the beparees that were at Busta that you have our orders to keep a strict watch on them to find out what market they carry any new salt they purchase in the Maratta districts, and that we shall, to prevent their under-selling as in our districts lay a heavy duty on all that is exposed to sale which has not been bought of the Society

We are, etc ,
WM B SUMNER,
H VERELST,
H WATTS

No A 28

FORT WILLIAM
12th May, 1766
(Recd 14th do Answ 25th do)

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 10th instant

As more time will be required for preparing the seals intended for the dustucks in future, we have been under the necessity of postponing the time for the new regulations to take place till the 1st July.

We are, Sir,
Your loving friends,
WM. B. SUMNER,
H. VERELST,
RANDL. MARRIOTT,
H. WATTS,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
WM. ALDERSEY,
THOS. KELSALL,
CHARLES FLOYER.

COMMITTEE OF TRADE,
FORT WILLIAM :
28th May, 1766.

(Recd. 31st do. Answ 9th June)

TO MR. JOHN GRAHAM,
At Midnapore.

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 22nd instant, and desire you will continue to sell at the price we fixed for disposing of our salt at Anundpoor.

We approve of the additional number of servants you have been obliged to employ on account of our business at Anundpoor.

You have our permission for taking up what sums you may want for carrying on your own business and granting bills for the amount on your attornies in Calcutta.

We are, etc.,
WM. B. SUMNER,
H. VERELST,
RANDL. MARRIOTT,
H. WATTS.

FORT WILLIAM :
2nd June, 1766.

(Recd. 6th do. Annc. 12th do.)

TO MR. JOHN GRAHAM,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 25th ultimo, and shall now give our instructions on the several questions you have stated regarding the accounts of your Factory.

1st On a supposition that the Jellasure and Midnapore Provinces did on the late adjustment, yield as much as their present state would admit of the Select Committee, being determined to keep up the rents of the lands to their full value, were of opinion that the old balances would be irrecoverable and, therefore, that they should be struck off, after being scrutinized with the utmost care to be certain that the rents of such pergunnah were fully taxed and not able to pay further. We, therefore, think they had better not be brought to your new books but kept in a book apart, in case an opportunity should hereafter occur of recovering any part to which you will give a proper attention

2nd The charge of Midnapore Fort and Buildings must be brought on your new books, as they stand on the books of the Presidency, an account of which the Sub-accountant has been ordered to prepare and transmit to you for that purpose

3rd The transfers for the advances made from one set of books to the other may be entered under the heads of Revenue Books and Factory Books as you have proposed

4th The Revenue Books should be entirely confined to accounts of the rents received and the charges attending them. The Military Disbursements must be made out of the Factory Books, and appear as a charge on the Presidency

5th The general estimation of the Alla Siccaes to the coins of the Country, and the value of such coin compared with the Current Rupee, we find being the exchange between the Alla Sicca and the Current to about 22 per cent. You are, therefore, to look upon the Alla Sicca mentioned in each teshkees to be 22 per cent superior to the Current Rupee of Calcutta, and establish the batta at that rate

For your assistance in keeping these several sets of books, you are permitted to entertain a monthly writer.

We are, Sir,
Your loving friends
WM B SUMNER,
H WATTS,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
WM ALDERSEY,
THOS KELSALL,
CHARLES FLOYER

No A 29.

FORT WILLIAM
The 5th June, 1766
(Recd 13th do Answ 15th do)

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM,
Resident at Midnapore

We have received your letter of the 1st instant. Two mutwas are stationed at Gongacolly purposely for the service of your Factory, and will

be ready to bring away the dispatch of cloth you have on hand, whenever it arrives there.

We are, Sir,

Your loving friends,

WM. B. SUMNER,
H. VERELST,
H. WATTS,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
W. ALDERSEY,
THOS. KELSALL,
CHARLES FLOYER.

No A 30.

FORT WILLIAM :

The 12th June, 1766.

(Recd 13th do. Answ. 15th do).

TO MR. JOHN GRAHAM.

SIR,

I am directed by the Committee of Trade to desire you will not make any further sales of their salt at Anundpoor, as they have disposed of the whole quantity they have remaining at that place to the country merchants

I am, etc ,

JAMES LAWRELL,

Secretary to the Committee of Trade.

No A 31.

COMMITTEE OF TRADE,

25th June, 1766

[Received 27th June, Answ. 7th July.]

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We duly received your letter of the 9th instant with the several accounts enclosed, which we find to be very distinct

We desire that the balance of cash in your hands, together with what further sums you receive on our account may be remitted by bills if procurable : if not, you will please to send it down in specie.

We are, Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servants,

WM. B. SUMNER,
H. VERELST,
H. WATTS.

No. A 32.

CALCUTTA :

July 12th, 1766.

[Answ. 25th July.]

TO MR. JOHN GRAHAM.

SIR,

I am directed by the Committee of Trade to acquaint you they have sold the Anundpoor Salt to Cosinant, Goculshah, Cosaul Chand, and Govind Chand Seal, and request you will deliver to their gomastah when he arrives the quantity at the golahs at the rate of 80 Sicca weight to the seer.

I am, etc.,

JAMES LAWRELL,

Secy. Come. of Trade.

No. A 33.

CALCUTTA :

12th July, 1766.

[Answ. 25th July.]

TO MR. JOHN GRAHAM.

SIR,

The bearer, Snberam, is sent by Consinant and the merchants who have purchased the Aundpoor Salt to receive the quantity that is now ready at the golahs.

I am, etc.,

JAMES LAWRELL,

Secy. Come. of Trade.

No. A 34.

FORT WILLIAM :

The 14th July, 1766.

[Received 19th July, Answ. 22nd July.]

TO JOHN GRAHAM, ESQ.,

Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 12th and 15th of last month.

The attorneys of Mr. Parker Hatley having made a demand on the company for the bungaloes he built at Midnapore which have been appropriated to their use, it is necessary we should be furnished with an estimate of their value which you will be pleased therefore to form and transmit to us as soon as possible.

Enclosed you will receive a list of the investment to be provided at your Factory for the ensuing year, also extract from the Hon'ble Com-

pany's separate letter dated 24th December, 1765, relating to the provision of goods on commission, to which we enjoin a strict obedience.

We are, Sir,
Your loving friends,
WM. B. SUMNER,
H. VERELST,
RANDL. MARRIOTT,
H. WATTS,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
W. ALDERSEY,
THOS. KELSALL,
CHARLES FLOYER.

ENCLOSURE.

Extract from the Hon'ble Company's Separate Letter, dated the 24th of December, 1765.

For other licensed trade we think it necessary to establish that all trade to be carried on within the Provinces wherein factories are established shall be carried on by our servants at such factories and their agents only who shall transact the business of our other servants on receiving the established commission, and on any refusal to accept such commission or any tendency to monopolize, the servants at Calcutta or other parts are at liberty to send their own black gomastahs, who are nevertheless to be accountable for their conduct to the Company's Servants within whose jurisdiction they reside. All districts not comprehended within the jurisdiction of such Subordinate shall be considered as within the jurisdiction to the Board of Calcutta.

A true extract.
E. BABER,
Sub-Secy.

No. A 35.

COMMITTEE OF TRADE.
FORT WILLIAM :
15th July, 1766.
[Answ. 25th July.]

TO MR. JOHN GRAHAM,
at Midnapore.

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 7th instant with the accounts and bills enclosed. The amounts of the latter have been received, as has the one forwarded to our Secretary on Mr. James Wensley.

You have already been advised by our Secretary of the sale of the Annndpoor Salt to Causinant, etc., merchants. You will please to deliver it to their gomastah as it arrives at the golahs, and acquaint us at the end

of each month what quantity he receives that we may recover the amount from the purchasers

We are, etc ,
WM B SUMNER,
H VERELST,
H WATTS

No. A 36

FORT WILLIAM
16th July, 1766
[Answ 22nd July]

TO JOHN GRAHAM ESQ
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

I am ordered by the President and Council to send you the enclosed extract from the Company's General Letter to this Presidency dated the 24th December, 1765

I am, etc ,
W ALDERSET,
Secretary

ENCLOSURE

Extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter to Fort William, dated the 24th December, 1765

Para 66 We are very sensible of Mr Barwell's merit and we shall leave it to you to give him all encouragement our service will consistently admit of The like we would have done with respect to Mr John Graham who has behaved so much to your satisfaction during the time he acted in the capacity of Secretary

A true Extract
W ALDENSTY,
Secretary

No A 37

COMMITTEE OF TRADE
FORT WILLIAM
11th August, 1766

[Received 15th August, Answ 17th August]

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM,
at Midnapore

SIR,

This being the proper season for contracting for the ensuing year's salt, we desire you will publish at your Factory that we are ready to receive proposals for the same, but, as it has been determined that the preference

shall be given to the Factories adjacent to the districts where the salt is made, we request you will favor us with the terms on which you will undertake the business. We hope from the experience you have had in this branch that your conditions will be more reasonable than those of last season

We are, Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servants,

WM B SUMNER
H VERELST,
RANDL. MARRIOTT
H WATTS

No. A 38

FORT WILLIAM
11th August, 1766

[Received 18th Answ 1st September]

To MR. JOHN GRAHAM,
Resident at Midnapore

Sir,

We have received your letter dated the 6th instant

The privilege of granting dustacks we have determined to confine to the President and the Chief of the Subordinate Settlements. You must therefore, apply to the President for whatever dustacks you may have occasion for, which we do not see is liable to any inconvenience, as it cannot be attended with a delay of more than two or three days

We are, Sir,
Your loving friends,

CLIVE,
WM B SUMNER,
H. VERELST,
RANDL MARRIOTT,
H. WATTS,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
W ALDERSEY,
THOS KELSALL,
CHARLES FLOYER.

No A 39

COMMITTEE OF TRADE,
FORT WILLIAM.
August 13th, 1766
[Received 18th August]

To MR JOHN GRAHAM,
at Midnapore.

Sir,

We have received your letters of the 25th ultimo and 3rd instant: the former advising of a dispatch of treasure, which is safe arrived the

latter enclosing the accounts for the month of July with two bills of exchange one on Mr Lawrell for Ct Rs 15,000, the other on Manick Holdar and Ram Holdar for Ct. R* 9 774-8-9.

We are, etc ,

WM B. SUMNER,
H VERELST,
RANDL MARRIOTT
H WATTS

No A 40

FORT WILLIAM

The 18th August, 1766

[*Received 25th, Anno 1st September*]

To JOHN GRAHAM, Esq ,
, Resident at Midnapore

SIR, ' ,

Enclosed are some supplemental remarks received from the Court of Directors this season on the goods of your investment which you are to attend to in the future provision of your investment

We are, Sir,
Your loving friends

CLIVE,
WM B SUMNER,
H VERELST
RANDL MARRIOTT,
H WATTS
CLAUD RUSSELL,
W ALDERSEY,
THOS KELSALL,
CHARLES FLOYER

No. A 41

FORT WILLIAM

21st August, 1766

[*Anno 25th do*]

To JOHN GRAHAM, Esq ,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

In consequence of an order from the Right Hon ble Robert, Lord Clive, I am to desire you will transmit to me with the utmost dispatch ^{State[ment]} of the annual expence of your Residency as far back as you can trace them omitting such charges as may have occurred in collecting the revenues

In drawing out this statement you will adopt the following plan

Pay and Allowances } to the Govt Servt }	Pay and Allowances } to Black Servt }	Charges Genl } Repairs, etc }	Total Annual } Amount }
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I am, etc,
H WATTS

No A 42

CALCUTTA

3rd September, 1766

[Answ 6th September]

To MR JOHN GRAHAM
SIR,

I have received your two favours of the 19th and 25th ultimo, but a constant hurried scene of public business has constantly kept me engaged I have communicated to his Lordship your request to be permitted to come down to Calcutta, which his Lordship has approved I have only to recommend to you in the meantime to forward the adjustment of the teshkees all you can, and to desire you will bring down with you a statement thereof.

I applied for Mr Kinlock's appointment to the command of the Battalion at Midnapore, but, as that Gentleman has not been re instated your request cannot be complied with Mr Fergusson, whom you recommended, has left Calcutta, and must, I imagine, be with you by the time you will receive this Another officer is likewise appointed who will set out shortly

I have not heard anything in regard to the Moina Chourah¹ Rajah's intentions of coming down to Calcutta, nor do I think he will take any such step after what I have already wrote him without your leave However to check every thought of a step where it has not your approbation, I send you enclosed a letter for him containing a reprimand for a thought of it, whilst his revenues remain so backward in their payments, or without the least representation of a complaint or having first advised with you upon the occasion

I am, etc,
H VERFLST

No A 43

COMMITTEE OF TRADE,

FORT WILLIAM

12th September, 1766.

[Received 17th September]

To MR JOHN GRAHAM,
at Midnapore

SIR

We have received your letters of the 17th and 22nd ultimo, and have agreed to accept of your offer of undertaking the provision of the ensuing year's salt on the same terms as last season The contract we shall order to be drawn out agreeable to the following conditions

The salt produced in the pergunnahs of Moinachoura, Sabbung,² and Dntmola shall be delivered at Anundpoor into the Society's golahs at the rate of Sonat Rupees 86 per maund

The salt produced in the pergunnahs of Bircool, Balsae, Murgodah, Carachour and Lumpree shall be delivered into the Society's golahs at Calcutta at the rate of St. Rs. 83 per maund.

The whole delivery both at Anundpoor and Calcutta shall be completed the 31st August 1767, but should any considerable part of the Beercool and Balsae salt remain at the Collaries after the bad weather sets in, and you shall think it more eligible to let it be there than to transport it to Calcutta, we shall be willing to indulge you in that respect and receive it the beginning of the ensuing season.

The salt shall be good in quality that is pure as collected from the pans and shall be delivered at the established weight of 82 sicca weights to the seer reckoning 40 seers to the maund.

You shall have no claims whatever to the balances or bad debts either from the Society or Molungees, but shall at the expiration of your contract engage to deliver in a list of such balances and bad debts to the Committee that the Society may reap the full benefit thereof in preserving their authority over the Molungees who are to continue the work.

The advances shall be made by us at three equal payments the first to be completed within the month of October, the second within the month of December, and the third within the month of February. Should any part thereof remain due after the time for the delivery of the salt is elapsed, you shall allow the Society an interest on the same after the rate of 10 per cent. per annum to be calculated according to the periods of the advances.

You shall not be bound by any penalty for a delivery of a certain quantity, but you shall oblige yourself to deliver to us all the salt that shall be made in the before-mentioned districts, and that you will sell none to any other person whatever.

We are, etc.,

WM. B. SUMNER,
H. VERELST,
RANDL. MARRIOTT,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FLOYER.

No. A 44.

SECRET COMMITTEE,
FORT WILLIAM :
16th September, 1766.

[Recd. 18th do. Answerd. 3rd October.]

TO MR. JOHN GRAHAM,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

Agreeably to the Company's positive instructions, we now transmit you their orders contained in paragraph 43rd of their General Letter, dated the 24th December, 1765, to which you are required to pay strict obedience.

We are, etc.,

CLIVE,
JOHN CAENAC,
H. VERELST

ENCLOSURE

Extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter, dated the 24th December, 1765

43 . We have reserved for the last remark on this Province the extraordinary expence of the Residency, of which we never had any particulars till the last Burdwan accounts received by the *Vansittart*, which was forwarded by the Secretary after the General Letter was closed and explained it to consist of the following gratifications to our servants

The Chief	...	...	3,000 Rupees per month
Second	...	...	1,500 do
Third	...	...	1,300 do.
The Military Officer	...	...	500 do

forming altogether an expence of Rupees 75,000 per annum The making our servants dependent on the Rajah for their allowances is in itself a dishonour to and quite inconsistent with the nature of our service, nor can we look on it in any other light than depriving the Company of a great sum from their revenues, for if the Rajah had not paid this vast sum to our servants, he might and ought to have paid so much addition for the annual revenue for his Province We, therefore, order that such of the Company's servants who have been employed in that Station since the Province was made over to the Company, shall pay into our Treasury whatever they have received from the Rajah, and shall be allowed for the time past at the following rates per annum

The Chief	...	6,000	} for all charges and expences whatever
„ Second	...	1,500	
„ Third	...	1,000	

which are to be the future allowances to the servants who it may be found necessary to employ on that service If any of the servants refuse to refund what we deem so unjustly obtained, we order you to dismiss them from our service, and they must be sent to England to answer for their conduct to us

A true extract

A CAMPBELL,
S, S C.

No. A 45

FORT WILLIAM

20th October, 1766

[Recd 26th do, Answd 7th Nov]

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

The Export Warehousekeeper having laid before us his remarks on the different assortments of goods lately received from your Factory, we now transmit them to you for your information and guidance in the future provision of these articles.

He has also informed us of your proposal for increasing the provision of some of the articles of your investment, which we have approved of, and ordered A R. 40 000 to be advanced out of the Treasury for that purpose invoice of which comes enclosed

You have our permission to build a magazine at Midnapore on the plan you proposed, transmitting to us an estimate of the expence.

We are, Sir,
Your Loving Friends,

CLIVE,
JOHN CARNAC,
H. VERELST,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
W. ALDERSEY,
THOS. KELSALL,
CHARLES FLOYER.

No. A 46.

CALCUTTA :

October 31st, 1766.

[*Ansud. Nov. 11th*]

[To J. GRAHAM.]

SIR,

I am favored with your's of the 20th instant, and am glad to hear of your safe arrival at Midnapore. My uncertainty how far your several requests could be complied with prevented my hitherto replying to it, but I have now the pleasure to acquaint you that they will all be granted you ; and, as I shall be glad to hear you fixed here as soon as possible, I doubt not your attention to expedite the accounts of your Presidency all in your power.

I am, etc.,
H. VERELST.

No. A 47.

FORT WILLIAM :

3rd November, 1766.

[*Ansud. 7th do.*]

To MR. JOHN GRAHAM.

SIR,

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the President and the Members of the Select Committee to require your immediate and final answer to their letter addressed to you the 10th September last.

I am, etc.,
ALEX. CAMPBELL,
S., S. C.

No. A 48.

CALCUTTA :

8th November, 1766.

[*Ansud. 11th do.*]

To MR. JOHN GRAHAM.

SIR,

Herewith you will receive enclosed the plan for building your magazine, which you will please give the necessary orders for its immediate

execution. I likewise forward you accompanying this a chart of the Cossijurah and Burdwan Bunde, and recommend to you to lose no time in beginning to cut the nulla marked A, the channel proposed for draining part of the Cloutwa, Hutteepoor and Cossijurah pergunnahs, and I will in the meantime write to the Rajah of Burdwan to lend every assistance that may be necessary on his part.

I shall defer saying anything in regard to the Rupee of the teshkees as I expect so soon to see you in Town.

I am, etc.,

H. VERELST.

No. A 49.

FORT WILLIAM :

8th December, 1766.

[Recd. Jan. 1767, Answerd. 10th Jan.]

To MR. JOHN GRAHAM,

Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We enclose to you herewith copies of the 17th and 48th paragraphs of the Hon'ble Company's General Letter per *Mercury* dated 17th May 1766, and require you to pay the strictest attention and obedience to the orders contained therein.

We are, Sir,

Your loving Friends,

H. VERELST,
JOHN CARNAC,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
W. ALDERSEY,
THOS. KELSALL,
CHARLES FLOYER.

ENCLOSURES.

Extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter to Bengal, dated the 17th May, 1766.

Para. 17.

We may reasonably expect the European Nations will be jealous of our growing power in Bengal. It must, therefore, be a particular object of your attention to give them no just cause of complaint, but to let them possess the same privileges they are entitled to. Great care should be taken that our servants at the subordinates and our gomastahs at all the Aurrangs do not impede them in their investment. The Company's advantages in the revenues are now become so blended with the general welfare of the country, that it is our interest as well as our duty to promote as much as possible the bringing of money from all quarters into the country, for which reason as well as to prevent disputes with their Sovereigns in Europe; we recommend it to you in general to be very circumspect in your behaviour to them, and no way to intrude on their privileges, and particularly do not obstruct the Dutch in their opium trade, which is an object

of such importance to them, that any difficulties they may be laid under in this part of their investment will certainly be attended with very disagreeable altercations between the two Companies in Europe, and must, as much as possible, be avoided

Para 48

Having reason to believe that many of our servants, have received presents and gratuities from the Nabobs their Ministers or others, in a collusive manner by way of exorbitant interest on monies lent or said to be lent to them by our said servants, in order, therefore, to put a stop to such extortions and exactions (for in that light we see them), we do hereby order and direct that if in future any of our servants, Civil or Military, shall directly or indirectly, demand, accept or receive from any person or persons whatsoever for the loan of any sum or sums of money, real or nominal, in Bengal or any other part or province of India (excepting only such monies as he may from time to time lend on respondentia) any kind of premium, gratuity or advantage whatsoever over and above twelve per cent per annum interest, such servants, being convicted thereof, let his rank or station be what it may, is to be forthwith suspended from the Company's Service

No A 50

FORT WILLIAM

The 20th December, 1766.

[Recd 24th, Answerd 10th Jan 1767]

TO MR JOHN GRAHAM,

Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

The Hon'ble Court of Directors having, in the advices lately received by the *Mercury*, ordered an additional investment to be provided this season, we now enclose a list of goods to be provided at your Factory, to which you will give the strictest attention

We are, Sir,

Your loving Friends,

H VERELST,
JOHN CARNAC,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
THOS KELSALL

ENCLOSURE

Additional List of Investment for Midnapore Factory received per Ship Mercury

			Pieces
Charconnaes C I R	...	..	200
Nillaes N.	.	..	1,000
Ditto fine F NL	...	...	300
Sannaes Ballasore of Middling price MSANS	...	...	300
Ditto fine and thick SANSE.	...	...	300
		Pieces	2,100

Letters 1-286 will be found in Midnapore Records, Vol. I.

No. 287.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQ.,
Collector-General.

MIDNAPORE :
6th January, 1768.

SIR,

Herewith I transmit you the Treasury Account for the Month of December, and likewise a List of the Revenue Books for the Original year 1174. One set..... ..to Mr. Watts in October : this is to remain in Calcutta.

I am, etc.,
[G. VANSITTART.]

No. 288.

MHAN BOIOON : *
January 6th, 1768.

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ.,
Chief of Midnapore.

SIR,

Two days ago I addressed you on my arrival here, and indeed on the road the behaviour of the present Raja's people was such as engaged my attention. They made proposals to Gaurinarain which were favourable and I was willing to see whether Gaurinarain had any influence here and desired him to produce those in the country who were of his party. Poor man not one he could produce and if your orders must expressly be put in execution, I must remain here to support him or I'm afraid none of the Riots will remain being averse to him as he never was Raja. I'll wait for your answer to my last and act accordingly. No acts from Chatinah, good or bad tho' I have sent for the Revenue of two.....rupees against this.

Burr Boioon's Vakeel is here and wishes to settle; there will be no objections on his part.

I have taken prisoner a harcaro who was with one of the Patchaet runnaways, he calls himself Mr. Verelst's.....that he had orders to bring him to Calcutta and was on the way, but waited on hearing of my march, he cannot shew.....nor order, nor.....paper with English.....seal or distich, but as he took the Governor's name, I abstained from putting him to the question till your sentiments are known. The Patchaet fellow has run away to Nagpore, where his daughter is married. I shall keep the harcaro prisoner until I hear. I am with real regard,

Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
J. FERGUSSON.

To MR GEORGE VANSITTART

CALCUTTA
9th Jany, 1768

SIR,

The treasure 17 chests agreeable to your invoice of the 26th arrived safe—returned the escort which accompanied it

Sir, etc,
JAS. ALEXANDER,*
Collector-General.

No 290

To G VANSITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA
9th January, 1768
(Recd 10th do)

SIR

Since my address to you of the 28th ultimo, I have had your favours of the 30th of that month and 6th instant the latter enclosing your accounts for last month and a set of revenue books for the Orissa year 1174 accompanying them which when perus'd and examin'd you shall be advised of. In my above letter I inform'd you of the arrival of the Treasure despatch'd by you the 9th ultimo which proves agreeable to your invoice of that date 17 chests Tale 105714 Sca Wts 100,000

The references which you point out sufficiently explain to me how the difference between the two statements of Bulrampore Tanna arose, but with respect to Sayr Cassary I do not find it joined to that pergunnah as an article of increase which is I imagine, an omission of the writer, but as soon as those accounts are all examined I will inform you particularly

* The method you took in noticing only the neat Tushkees of the Western jungles is extremely satisfactory, as indeed are all your other settlements

I am etc,
RICH. BECHER,
Collector-General

* Mr R C Sterndale in a popular lecture delivered at the Dalhousie Institute in 1888 said a member of a family which still retains its almost traditionary connection with the Bengal Civil Service was James Alexander, Collector of Calcutta, who afterwards became Earl of Caledon. A lady of his family was celebrated by our Scottish poet Burns as 'the bonnie lass o' Ballockmyle'—a ballad written the very year of the catastrophe of Calcutta

No. 291.

To G. VANSITTART, Esq.

CALCUTTA :
10th Jany., 1768.

Sir,

Upon receipt of your letter of the 13th December, regarding the Singboom country, I made every enquiry, but to no purpose. The only method left, which I beg you will pursue, is to send an able intelligent person to Singboom to gain a knowledge of the country and of the strength of the fortresses, etc., and particularly to find out whether the Morattoes have a claim or ever had any pretensions to this country, as I must be clear in this point before I order any troops to march into it. Our present state of affairs will not allow of our engaging in any disputes with the Morattoes. You will, therefore, be clear on this head.

I spoke to Mr. Cartier,* the Export Warehouse keeper, concerning your offer of the 30,000 Rs. worth of goods for the Company's investments, as soon as I received your letter. That Gentleman, in the hurry of business must have forgotten it. I have since reminded him, and I suppose you have settled it.

Mrs. Vansittart and yourself have my wishes for every happiness in the course of the present year.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,
H. VERELST.

I have no objection to your going to Bardwan.

No. 292.

To G. VANSITTART, Esq.

CALCUTTA :
11th Jan., 1768.
(Recd. 12th do.)

Sir,

I have duly receiv'd your letter of the 7th instant, enclosing two bills of exchange on the Military Paymaster General.

1 for Ct.	Rs. 10,900
1 do.	" 2,500

I am, etc.,

RICHARD BECHER,
Collector-General.

* Cartier, immediate predecessor to Warren Hastings, as Governor of Bengal.

No 28.

To RICHARD BECHER, ESQR.,
Collector-General.

MIDNAPORE:
12th January, 1768.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of 9th. The Articles of Pergunna and Sayr Cussary stand I believe in the Statement as follows :

Pergunnas of Jallesore Prov.	Rents as per last year's Statement.	Deduction Allowance acct of Drought & Alla Sica	Increase Alla. Sica.	Puttin put in their several Perg. All. Sica	Rents to be paid this year
Pergunna Cussary ...	1765 5 9	50 0 0	320 13 16	163 1 11	2190 4 16
Sayr Cussary ...	630 13 16	620 13 16			

which is agreeable to what I wrote you in my address of the 30th December. I must confess, however, that it would be clearer if the following Annotation was made upon the article of Increase. N. B. This increase is on account of Sayr Cussary which is now joined to the Pergunna.

If you think proper to add this remark in the Statement which was forwarded to Calcutta, I will do the same in the Copy which remains here.

[G. VANSITTART.]

No. 294.

MIDNAPORE:
13th January, 1768.

To THE HONORABLE HARRY VERELST, ESQR.,
President and Governor of Fort William.

HON'BLE SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 10th. About a fortnight ago a couple of Seapoys were sent to Singboom to inquire into the truth of the account which were given, and I have now dispatched a Hircarab with the most intelligent Zemindar that could be picked out of the Battalion to procure further information particularly with regard to the pretended independency of the district.

As soon as any of these return I will immediately communicate to you what intelligence they bring.

I am &c.,
[G. VANSITTART.]

To G. Vansittart from J. Fergusson at Mhan Boioon, 15th January, 1768. The ink is very faded, and a large portion of the paper has been torn away.

No. 295.

RUNZIPORE :
20th January, 1768.

To G. VANSITTART, ESQ.,
Chief of Midnapore.

SIR,

After having settled the Tuskees of Mhan Boioon according to my instructions and left Gaurinarain extremely well satisfied with his situation, I marched hither with the double view of bringing the Zemindar to a sense of his dependence and to the payment of a Revenue either directly or through the Suphur Zemindar who claims a right to the place and of bringing the Zemindar of Chahtina whose parganah is adjacent, to a sense of his duty from which he seems to have seve .. by best that he has got..... Zemindar of Runziporeand he had... by force.....things belong... .. from at my being so near and promises for.....however I shall bring him to himself before I leave this as will take possession of the runaway zemindar's place for the Company until I have your instructions in what manner to settle the Tuskees. It is undisputably part of the Suphur purgunah but the incumbent had several years ago rendered himself independent.

The Harcaro there went about his business as there was no particular complaints against him besides what I wrote.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
J. FERGUSSON.

No. 296.

To GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQR.

CALCUTTA :
20th January, 1768.
(Recd. 22nd do.)

SIR,

I have received your favour of the 12th instt., and have made the annotation in your statement regarding Sayr Cassary which you point out.

Your accounts for last month have been examined and are right.

I am (etc.),
RICHARD BECHER,
Collector-General.

No. 297.

To G. VANSITTART, ESQ.

CALCUTTA :

22nd January, 1768.

SIR,

I am directed to acquaint you that about 2,000 mds. of salt has been lately seized here which was imported from the Minachora Raja's districts, and as a further quantity is reported to be loading in order to be smuggled away, you are desired to send proper people to stop it.

I am, etc.,

JAMES LAWRELL,
Secretary, Committee of Trade.

No. 298.

To GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ.

CALCUTTA :

26th January, 1768.

(Recd. 27th do.)

SIR

Lieutenant Fergusson has my consent for his stay sometime longer ; but as you have more than your share of Lieutenants, he must be removed, and an Ensign appointed to the Battalion in his stead.

I am, etc.,

H. VERELST.

No. 299.

SUPHUR :

26th January, 1768.

To GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ.,
Chief of Midnapore.

SIR,

I did myself the pleasure of writing to you the 20th Instant in which I informed you of having settled the Purga. of Mn. Boioon also that the Zemindar of Runzidpore has disappeared nor could all my endeavours induce him to come to me in order to accommodate matters.

I have therefore set up a Bamboo (according to the custom of the country) and taken possession of it for the Company—it is acknowledged by all parties a part of the Suphur and Ameynagur Purga's. I have therefore told them to keep possession until I have consulted you and at their request left two Punes with about.....
territory they.....
Increase of Re.....
in the Possession.....

as the Chahtinah..... they dread to.....
 I have been induced on that acct. to take a Bond of considerable value from him to be forfeited provided his Relation is either openly or clandestinely assisted or supported by him in any attempts towards the recovery of Rnnzildpore without my express orders to that purpose. The conduct of the Chahtinah Zemindar and the desire of promoting the plan of civilizing and familiarizing the country people to our government, also lessening the despotic sway of the Zemindars by informing and instructing the ryots that in cases of oppression there was redress, not only has prolonged my stay in this quarter in gen'l but also particularly induced me to march to Chahtinah bysar. It lies N. N. E. of Suphur, distant by the route we came 13 coss, very stony.....road: it is by much the best purgunnah in.....by an acct. of their being.....acct. of a considerable.....it produces but most.....inhabitants are an.....spect of their neighbours a polished set, few or no Pikes, abundance of riots and petty merchants. The country is divided into talooks all of which are possessed by the blood and marriage relations of ye Zemindar, and the late defect and delay in paying of the Revenue was owing to them, for they not being used to pay any at all pay the small assess demanded from them now with great reluctance. The riots are both able and willing to pay an adequate Revenue. I went much about among the villages while I stayed and indeed they appeared to me to apprehend in its full force the advantages accruing from our protection. In short the Zemindar here is held to his duty by a well grounded apprehension that his own people would desert him whereas in the other four purgas. the riots such as they are, are solely attached to the Zemindar, but I have the satisfaction to.....think that these.....determined in future.....and subjection.....Of Chahtinah is by all.....disposed but his good.....overruled by his turbulent.....

Amidest these general intentions towards improving the country I was not unattentive to the measures necessary to enforce the immediate payment of the Revenues. As Chahtinah was the most culpable I inflicted corporal punishment on his Vakeel on account of breaking a formal promise in the revenue collection and have taken a written promise from his Devan by which the nuzza is to be cleared off in Pagan and the Tuskees kists to be paid regularly within the month. I wrote a severe check to the Zemindar and ordered him not to allow those people who occasioned delays in the Revenue any svey whatsoever and that if he on any other occasion prove dilatory in the remitting of his Revenue he would be drove from his purga.....

.....To keep a constant.....hasten the collections.....Suphur, Ameynr. and Mhan Boioon.....paid up untill Chait.....which reasons advanced.....comply with.

The many fruitless incursions from Bishenpore into these purgunnas in pursuit of Damodar Sing and the unrelenting manner in which his suspected protectors were plundered and treated has had a very bad effect here. The strictest discipline (for every seapoy knows my sentiments so well that he won't so much as go into a village if not on the march) my most persuasive and familiar address nay the desire of their Zemindar cannot induce the riots to remain in their houses when we approach. They carry their family and effects into the jungle but indeed they never fail to come in crowds to pay their respects to me when I go ariding or walking in the jungle. A few days more will bring me to Balrampore. I am in the meantime with real regard,

Sir,
Your &c,
J FERGUSSON

No. 300

To MR GEORGE VANSITTART, at Midnapore.

CALCUTTA.
22nd January, 1768
(Recd 23rd do)

SIR,

I am directed to acquaint you that above 2,000 mds of Salt has been lately seized here which was imported from the Minachora Raja's districts and as a further quantity is reported to be loading in order to be smuggled away, you are desired to send proper people to stop it

I am, etc,
JAMES LAWRELL,
Secretary, Committee of Trade

No 301.

To G VANSITTART, ESQ

CALCUTTA
26th January, 1765
(Recd 28th do)

SIR,

You will be pleased to transmit me with all expedition returns of the ordnance and military stores remaining with your Factory at the end of December last

I am, etc,
H VERELST.

No. 302.

TO MR. G. VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

COMMITTEE OF TRADE :
 Fort William.
 27th January, 1768.

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 13th instant with the several accounts and bills enclosed. We desire you will keep the Golahs on account the Society till further orders, and acquaint us with the condition they are in.

We are, etc.,
 JOHN CARTIER,
 CLAUD RUSSELL,
 CHARLES FLOYER.

 No. 303.

TO THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, ESQ.,
President and Governor of Fort William.

MIDNAPORE :
 6th February, 1768.

HON'BLE SIR,

Inclosed I transmit you an abstract of the Midnapore expences for the month of January. The people whom I sent to Singboom are all returned not having been allowed to go above a cose or two into that District, so that they had no opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the Country, etc, from their own observations, but they made the strictest they possibly could upon the borders of it, and their information is no way different from that which I transmitted you in December, except with regard to the circumstances of Jugganant Sing* the Raja and the Distance of the Country from Sumbulpore. With regard to the former they say that Sowenatt Sing† has not really confined him, but on the contrary leaves him the enjoyment of his liberty together with the name of ruling, tho' it is true that he keeps the power in his own hands and obliges him to act in whatever manner he pleases. With regard to the latter, they say that from the borders of Gatseela to Poorhatty,‡ the residence of the Singboom Raja, is 30 Cose and thence to Sumbulpore only 60. A lofty claim of hills passes through the Country about 15 Cose this side Poorhatty. In all other respects their accounts coincide entirely with the former positive that the jurisdiction of the Morattas never extended to this, nor do they receive the smallest revenue from it.

[G. VANSITTART.]

* Jagannath Sing.

† Sheonath Sing.

‡ Parbhati. See Bengal District Gazetteers. Vol. 21. pp. 31, 32.

No. 304.

TO CHARLES FLOYER, ESQ.,
Secretary to the Select Committee.

MIDNAPORE :
 7th February, 1768.

SIR,

I was yesterday favoured with your letter of the 27th January. The difficulty of getting the account properly authenticated and the various intervening business have prevented my transmitting them so expeditiously as might have been expected, but you may depend receiving them by the middle of this Month.

I am, &c.,
 [G. VANSITTART.]

No. 305.

TO CHARLES FLOYER, ESQ.,
Secretary to the Select Committee.

MIDNAPORE :
 13th February, 1768.

SIR,

Inclosed I transmit you the following papers No. 1 to 10 abstract of the Collections in the Midnapore and Jallesore Provinces from the Orissa year 1168 to 72 inclusive,

No. 11 and 12. *Miscel. accounts of the sums of money received during that period by the Residents and their banyans.*

No. 13 and 14. *Lists of the Persons by whom the aforesaid accounts are allotted.*

The accounts which I have transmitted of the Collections for the Company are faithfully extracted from the Public Books of the Provinces and the accounts of the Collections for the Residents and their banyans are entirely agreeable to the Bengal papers.

No. 11 and 12 which are attested by the Zemindars as particularly specified in the Separate List.

No. 13 and 14.....You will observe that the great part of the Collections for the Residents &c. is in.....Rupees, that is to say in Rupees of Various Sorts differing both in weight and alloy.....of these no [partien]lar account is procurable and therefore the exact value be ascertained.....All the information I can give on the subject is that one hundred Nocra Rupees.....usually reckoned in the Jallesore Province to..... .. eighty five Dusmassa Rupees or Arcot, and in.....Midnapore Province to be worth eighty-seven and a half.

It has not been in my power to transmit the accounts of the disbursements as there are no such accounts at the Factory of an older date November 1763.

[G. VANSITTART.]

TO G. VANSITTART, ESQ

CALCUTTA :
15th Feb, 1769
(Recd 17th do.)

SIR,

I have received your favour of the 11th with your Treasure account for the month of January and two bills on the Military Paymaster General for Rs 13,2⁰⁰, also an invoice of treasure, on the arrival of which you shall be advis'd

The above Treasury account has been examined and is right.

I am, &c,
RICHARD BECHER,
Collector-General

No. 307.

BULDAHPORE
15th February, 1768

TO G VANSITTART, ESQ

To G VANSITTART, Esq

FORT WILLIAM
15th Feby, 1768
[Recd 19th do]

SIR,

We direct that you do send down immediately a list of the investment provided at your Factory this year with the reasons for the increase and decrease of the several articles directed to be provided at your Factory this season

We are etc ,
[4 illegible signatures,]
JAS ALEXANDER,
CLAUDE RUSSELL,
[Illegible signature,]
CHARLES FLOYER

No 309

To MR GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

SELECT COMMITTEE
FORT WILLIAM
16th Feby, 1768
(Recd 26th do)

SIR,

Notwithstanding the public notice which was given by the Select Committee so early as July, 1765, prohibiting all Free Merchants from residing up country and carrying on a trade there after the 21st October ensuing under the penalty of having the Company's protection withdrawn from them, we have too much reason to believe that many have eluded those orders, and we are determined to suffer no longer such a violation of the Company's repeated commands. You are therefore required to apprehend and send to the Presidency without delay all such Free Merchants and others, as you may find trading within your districts that it may appear that they have no permission granted for that purpose by the President or the Select Committee

We are, etc.,
H VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
FRAS SYKES,
RICHD BECHER,
CHARLES FLOYER

BULRAMPORE
February 26th, 1768.

To G. VANSITTART

SIR,

I have been favoured with yours of the 24th.

I am not a little surprised to hear that the Tahsildar at Gatseela complains of the Seapoys for in order to obviate any Misunderstanding of that sort, I had sent one of my best Jemmidars with the plainest instructions to act in every Respect according to his Directions I shall this day enforce these Orders, and at the same time know his Reasons for dispensing with them

I approve of the scheme of Tehsildars, and (forgive my freedom) particularly as the Punes, instructed by their Jemmidar here who I now find to be a very bad man, act so rapaciously in the distant pergunnahs that they almost do more harm than good in regard of the collections and if this is the case now they will be worse when I am recall'd

I was obliged to alter the *Kistbundy* of the Nuzzeranna in Suphur, &c, so it will be all paid up by the 30th of Chaed instead of Pagan in the *Kistbundy* made out before Part of the Nuzzanas is ready here but I wait for ballances in order to send a compleat one at once The Suphur Zemindar agrees to 75 Dos—Rs *tuskees* for Ranzipore and on his earnest entreaty to be excused paying this *Sal* on account of the great expense he has been at by keeping pikes there to prevent any claims for the runaway and that ryots do not come in cleverly, I knowing the truth of his assertion in both cases, have agreed and hope you will be pleased to approve

I am with gratitude and esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient and obliged
humble servant,
J FERGUSSON

No 311

To G VANSITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA •
27th February, 1768
(Recd 28th do)

SIR

As I should be glad to lay before the Hon'ble Board a clear state of the Midnapore revenues before the dispatch of the next ship, I desire you will furnish me with an abstract account specifying the amount Collections of the present year and in general, what particular purpose the several sums collected have been appropriated This account I would have made up to the end of March and forwarded to me as soon after as possible, as I expect the ships will be despatched by the 15th

I am, etc,
RICH'D BECHER,
Collector-General

No. 312

TO CHARLES FLOYER, ESQR,
Secretary to the Select Committee,

MIDNAPORE.

28th February, 1768

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 23rd, and, in consequence of the Committee's directions, have ordered the Vakeels of the several pergunnas belonging to the Midnapore and Jalesore Province to repair with all speed to Calcutta, they will set on in a day or two and a list of their names shall accompany them. I have thought it proper to send the Vackeels rather than the Zemindars themselves, as it was from them I received the accounts and they are ready to attest upon oath that they were faithfully extracted from the zemindary papers; as they will get to Calcutta... . I imagine time enough for their attestations to be transmitted whereas the zemindars could not be so speedily assembled, and as their journey will not be so productive of any inconvenience to our Hon'ble Masters affairs in these Provinces, whereas the zeminders would be attended with a heavy expence, interrupt the Collection of the Revenue, and greatly impede the cultivation of the country, the season for which is now beginning

[G. VANSITTART]

No 313

No 80

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQR,
Collector-General

MIDNAPORE

28th February, 1768.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter No. 24, 25, and 26, and you may depend upon being punctually furnished with the account you desire.

Raw silk being an article of which our Hon'ble Masters I imagine would wish to be supplied with as large a quantity as possible, I am endeavouring to promote the cultivation of it to the utmost of my power in these Provinces by offering great encouragement to whoever will undertake it, and I will hereafter inform you what success I am likely to meet with.

[G VANSITTART]

No. 314

BULDAHPORE.

22th February, 1768

TO G. VANSITTART, ESQ

SIR,

The manner in which the Collisnapore man has lodged his complaints does me great injustice. It is true indeed on application from the

Sancacoolea* Zemindar I sent a pune with a perwana to Colhapore† desiring him to appear and answer to a complaint lodged against him, who soon returned with an answer that Zemindar and his principal people were gone to Midnapore, and that when they returned he would send a proper person in which answer I acquiesced nor has any of my people been near him since

You'll please recollect that thus far I acted in consequence of general instructions from yourself to make all the enquiry and examination possible into the disputes between Zemindars, and then communicate and refer the whole to you for the decision. I hope therefore Sir that an unjust complaint will not interfere with this your orders but that you will authorise me to examine into the affair, when I shall not fail to communicate whatever I can learn here and refer the parties to Midnapore

As to the Jemmedar of punes his fault that induced me to call him a bad man was information I had given me that it was a practice to make use of the perwanas sent to listen the treasure at the end of the month (when the Zemindar of Pargis proved dilatory) as a means to extort sums of money from them to obviate the effects of their extraordinary zeal in their collections which sums were no sooner obtained than they sat down with the utmost patience knowing that my impatience would probably make a jobb for another pune tho' I had this told yet as I have no proof of it, I do not insist on it, but what kindled my wrath against him when I addressed you last was his sending his own nephew, a pune, to Jumbunie with the Tindar's chit for the balance of Maag, who so soon as he got hold of the person who did business there, instead of taxing him on the Head of revenue, he addressed him "you Sirrah, my Jemmedar's son is going to be married give me immediately 10 Rs for that purpose for I have as much from the Jatbunie Zemindar" "That I'll give you" answered the other, "but not now, for I have only 21 Rs which I am to send immediately to Bulrampore as part of last month's Aist" "No, no, give 10 Rs for the Zemindar and some for myself or I won't let you stir hence" On which the Diwan was obliged to comply "Now" says the pune "here is a Perwana in your name you must immediately repair to Bulrampore carrying with you what bullocks, buffaloes, or other substance you have in the world, not only to make out the balance of the revenue, but to make your peace with people in power there" which speech terrified the present person so much that he took the first opportunity of escaping into the jungle, on which every individual in the purgannah ran also into the jungles, and it cost me a great deal of trouble to persuade them out again.

However Sir I must beg the favour as I have dismissed the pune hence never to return, that the jemmedar, being sensible that I know him, will be on his guard so as not to act so in future I beg he may not be . . . however much I may be of opinion that a man of sense and integrity will be necessary when the charge of the Collections is left to the Tindar by himself

I beg your pardon for using the expression Sal What I meant was that the revenue of Runzeepore should begin to be exacted from the Zemindar of Supur from the beginning of next year, according to the Orissa way of computing, which I believe happens in the beginning of Sept'r '68 for reasons which I mentioned in my last, but if you think that

improper, the Zemindar will agree to any settlement that he possibly can make good

I understand I ought to have sent you a return of the stores when I sent them I hope you'll forgive me what is not intentionally done but merely omisso

I am with gratitude and esteem,

Sir,

Your most obd & humble Servant,

J FERGUSSON.

No 315

BULRAMPORE

4th March, 1768

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq

SIR

I have this moment received your letter of the 3rd I acknowledge the full force of your reasoning but must say in my own vindication that when I started that objection to the Tanidar on his representing the case to me he said that tho' the Colianpore Collections were immediately remitted to Midnapore yet that he was considered as a jungle Zemindar however I shall avoid falling into the same error in future and at present shall order the Jalgur Zr to make his complaints to you I am very sorry that you insist on punishing the Jemmedar not that I would wish to be supposed to plead in behalf of a worthless fellow, but that I think it affects myself It was not without examination and chastisement that I forgave him if I may call that chastisement which does not extend to corporal punishment, for tho' he had the address to induce the Jambumie man to plead in his behalf and to say that he gave him the money of his own accord and without any violence offered him yet I checked him in the severest manner and ordered the money to be paid into the revenue kist it being deficient Forgive me Sir if I once more presume to delay your orders until I am favored with your answer, as I am conscious it must appear very despicable in the eye of everybody to be obliged to send in a person to Midnapore prisoner for a crime *a great one indeed but which I took it upon me to pardon* In a word, I feel a great deal more than I can express and earnestly request that this one more favor you'll be pleased to add to many at least to forgive the Jemmedar if you should immediately send another in his place I shall in future act so circumspectly as to advise you of everything whatsoever before I take any step in it so I hope that in future I shall have occasion to trouble you with few requests of the same nature

As to the peon he was drove hence directly and hardly think he would venture to remain in Midnapore after being disgracefully turned out here

As to y^e fines after having taken bonds from them for the sums of 200 Rs each I remitted the debt in consequence of their ready appearance on the spot acquiescence in the revenue before settled for them but more especially in regard to your favour of the 6th January web at that time I wholly misunderstood and it is only this moment by repeatedly perusing it that I find I ought to have levied at least 100 Rs. and this mistake I was led into by not giving the word ' further ' in your's the due force

As to Supur you know that I can supply it out of the sum on wch I consulted you, as to Buna I have not that in my power nor of Ameynagar wholly but as the error was entirely mine it is but proper that I should be the only sufferer as I would by no means recur on the Zemindars from the same principle on wch I have requested the Jemmdar's pardon above. However Sir in both these points it rests with your breast to indulge me or not for be assured that whatever you are pleased to order or direct shall be put in execution (while my judgment and ability enable me) without the slightest duration whatever private uneasiness it may cost me

Pardon my freedom in respect of the length and contents of this letter but I esteem it for the honestest and most candid part with one whose friendship I have experienced openly to remonstrate on a point that either really or imaginarily affects me than to board any secret regret in my mind With Gratitude & Esteem,

I am &c,
J. FERGUSSON

No 316

To G VANSITART, Esq

BULBAMPORE
9th March, 1768

SIR,

I have received your letters So soon as the new Jemmdar arrives to take the charge this one shall be sent away

If my Gomasta acted according to the representations of the Gatseela Raja's Vackeel it's not only without my knowledge but contrary to strictest instructions yet I will not absolutely say untill I have received his own vindication, yet must I entertain the strongest suspicions that his suggestions are both malicious and groundless from the following considerations

1st.—That my Gomasta who is a 20 years resident in Gatseela thus addressed me when here "According to the instructions I have received so will I act, but that won't screen me from accusations when then there is a complaint lodged against me let not my master doubt me untill my accuser proves the fact in my presence"

2nd.—That the affair of the rice has been communicated to me by him and is as follows My Gomasta gave money to the Raja beforehand on condition that he should give him rice at the lowest price of the Season This Rice when produced proved much worse than the run of the Market, on wch it was objected to but it was soon agreed on by the Raja—who was on the spot to make up in quantity what was deficient in quality, but in about half an hour after, instructed by this same Vackeel, he receded from that on wch the Gomasta, being tied up by my instructions from the least appearance of violence demanded his money to be returned and the rice carried away, rather than wch they came into the above mention'd proposal

3rd.—If I am of any consequence here, ought not the complaint to have been first lodged here and then if to no effect carried to Midnapore? But so far from that, the Vackeel who remained here several days conceal'd his going to Midnapore mentioning that he obtain'd 15 days leave from the Raja to visit his family who reside at Soubung

Who is the individual in the jungles, great or small, to whose complaints I have denied a patient ear and whose grievances I have not redress'd even to their own content when justly grounded? Why, then, should such petty complaints be carried before you before I have so much as been made acquainted with them. Though a consciousness of innocence may alleviate my Chagrin, yet my vexation is so considerable that it is some days before I am again in a proper frame either to attend to the Company's Business or my own.

Were I, Sir, to explain all the true reasons of these complaints, it might have an invidious appearance time may perhaps disclose the true source of them. So far as regards the Raja, I can, however, mention without such Reserve that my servant should maintain an unlimited Inter-course and connection with the country people not only prevents him from acting in a Despotick manner, and arbitrary influence gradually diminishes, but it also gives us an opportunity of being more intimately acquainted with the real value of his possessions—a knowledge that must of course be disagreeable to him. When it is suggested to him under these colours to discontinue my trade, no wonder he should give into it. I could recriminate on the Raja by uncontestable facts, such as confining people for disregarding his discouragement of contracts voluntarily entered into with my Gomasta, but that is below my notice.

Let me Sir as is my duty pass by these complaints and represent that as well by my own knowledge as express advice from the Tahsildar, I have reason to believe the revenue precarious unless a speedy remedy is applied.

Consent then Sir that I should this instant interpose, my own Reputation next to your's is concern'd, let me impose on the Raja a Diwan well acquainted with the purgunnah, very agreeable to the ryots, not disagreeable, I believe to the Raja, but who will not undertake the task unless appointed hence as a guard to secure him from the danger of evil councillors, with which the Raja is beset.

The person I mean formerly served in Gatsela, where he quit'd Ramsingdal because he would not agree to pay a revenue without being attacked by our forces. I know him to be clever, and believe he will undertake the task at my request.

The Gatsela Raja complains of it as a hardship imposed by me alone the stopping of the passage of Salt-bullocks from going the way of Hildepoir in his purgunnah, by which he loses about Rs 2,000 a year.

Inclosed is Gour Hurrie's account of his Stewardship at Gatsela, and he assures me he has received no more in any respect. He desires that the Raja's Mohurer may be made to compare notes with him, when he does not doubt to make his statement of the matter appear the just one. He also adds that it was not his fault, but accts were settled before he having repeatedly required it. He is at present in a fever, otherwise I should have order'd him to Midnapore.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedt. & humble Servant,

J FERGUSSON

Gour Hurry's account of money received from the Gatsela Raja—

	Rs	A	P
Balance of money received when Tasildar to be sent to Janepore... ..	169	0	0
Articles allowed him for diet—total amount .. .	40	0	0
A horse which was given him voluntarily by the Raja .. .	209	0	0
Demand on the Raja money lent .. .	48	0	0
No wages, Cattle paid for. Batta	161	0	0

No. 317.

To G. VANSITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA

9th March, 1768

(Recd. 10th do)

SIR,

I received your favour of the 29th ultimo, and extremely approve of your giving proper encouragement for promoting the cultivation of raw silk. I shall be glad to learn from time to time what success your endeavours meet with.

I am, etc,

RICHD. BECHER,

Collector-General

No 318

BULRAMPORE.

15th March, 1768

To

GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 12th it is no small satisfaction to me that I can prove by the Jamidar and others beyond all dispute or question that the Raja complained to me of my Gomasta neither directly nor indirectly until the 10th current I believe and that indeed in consequence of my having sent an hacarao to know why the people were not in their houses on the Road and to know if they had any grievances that I might redress them To this perwana I had a set of vague complaints the salt being the only stated one very particular vague as the complaint was I ordered to be considered here and was told that without inquiry on the spot it would not be known whether what he said was true or false

I had also taken measures to do that when another circumstance drew my attention another way as follows.

A letter from Lt. Lumsdaine at Patchaet dated 3rd current informed me that Moonshall one of the former Rajas of that place was in some part of Mban Bhoom pargana and that his people made plundering incursions into Patchaet. I immediately despatched my Jungly spies for information one of which soon returned and had got such certain intelligence that he engaged to conduct me to the house where he lay.

Expedition and secrecy were the very life of the undertaking. Measures I took to secure both. I calculated the properest time for setting out so as to arrive about break of day but I was but ill supported in the execution by my men particularly by those who in duty ought to have done most the Sergt. and Subadars.

Scarce had I marched 6 coss when my troops began to lag. I resolved myself to set the example and marched on foot at the head of the advanced guard ordering by all means to keep close up we having no baggage to wait for: this was promised but not performed for by the time I had marched 3 coss more I found my guard dwindle to the Jemmadar, Havildar, Naik and sepoya besides two orderlies. This obliged me to halt and send a harcaro back, who having gone a full coss got only three sepoya asleep on the way whom he bro't up and he reported that the main body must be far behind. Thus was I reduced to the option of losing the effects of so much fatigue and some reputation by waiting for them as it must be day or pushing on with those present, the latter I chose and tho' day overtook us, yet the smallness of our party screened us from suspicion, and we arrived at the very village before the Raja was aware: he however got notice too soon for us, for in my presence while I was running up, six of his people pull'd him away towards the jungles and two shot which I ordered my orderly to fire on his saise who ran after him with a horse did not prevent him from reaching his master and mounting him before we could get up. Thus he escaped. Had I had any force I should have immediately followed him but my whole consisted in 7 rank and file a jemmadar and myself. His force was considerable 25 fire locks of which two taken and a great number of match locks besides chewars. They however attempted nothing but made their escape with expedition. Two harcaros who call themselves Mr. Verelst's were here. As they had no papers nor perwana with English distick I took them prisoners and they wait your orders. All this happened early in the morning and after all was over and the Mban Bhoom Vackeel had come to excuse his entertaining him (tho' his son in-law contrary to orders by settling with that he was imposed on by the Harcaros) the Sergeant, Subadar and party being 63 rank and file, arrived at.....one p. m.

Deem it not rashness in me that I pushed on: my character was at stake and judge not that I undertook too much by attempting to go 18 coss without a halt: the sepoya have told me they can run 30 along for once or so. I am persuaded that tho' the Raja escaped yet that having effected so long a march undiscovered will not only keep my own people to their duty, but also prevent these vagrants from taking shelter here. The effects we have taken are 1.....2 mares, wearing apparel a set of brass utensils. The value of the whole has not been estimated: nor silver, gold nor cash. Your orders regarding that and also the prisoner harcaros will oblige one who is with regard and esteem,

Your most obedt. humble servant,

J. FERGUSON.

No 319.

To G VANSITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA

17th March, 1768

(Received 20th, 1768)

SIR,

This serves to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 10th and 15th instant together with your Treasury account for last month, and a list of Pergunnah servants, also an account of the receipts and disbursements of your Factory for the present year to the 10th instant inclusive, and two bills of exchange on the Military Paymaster General for current rupees 9,750, and the other for 4,500.

I have likewise had your letters of the 6th and 9th instant brought to me by Vackeels most of whom are arrived here, and you may be assured shall be returned to you with all possible expedition

By the escort which accompanied the 9 chests of treasure forwarded by you the 10th ultimo, I acknowledged receipt of it It is reported the 19th of that month and turns out 50,000 sicca weight agreeable to your invoice

I am, etc ,

RICHARD BECHER,

Collector-General.

No 320

BULRAMPORE

18th March, 1768.

To G VANSITTART, Esq

SIR,

Your letter of the 17th arrived last night at 9 o'clock The complaint against my circar was making what they call a hurricane on the road because he could get neither dack nor vikals on the road tho' ready to pay for them when he was carrying the jemidar's and serpoys' pay to them as also some more money for my private concerns being told by a Digwa that it was the Raja's orders that since my people went backwards and forwards so often they might go without guides But in respect of my Gomasta who resides there and manages my trade he insists that he will not only clear him self of every circumstance alleged against him but prove at a hearing that the Raja's Vackeels gave every malicious obstruction in their power to his free traffick with the country people particularly the vackeel who first complain'd at Midnapore I have however sent a trusty person to make further enquiry on the spot, and have ordered my Gomasta and the Raja's Vackeel hither where they shall have strict justice done them

The unlimited power you have given me to dispose of what fell into my hands gives me great pleasure, as it gives me an opportunity of convincing my serpoys that it is their interest and advantage to exert themselves when required of them

As to the affair of Cudjung the first thing I shall observe is that Jaganaut in his petition calls it part of the Gateela Zamindary. Now not

only the Chowdrie's Gomasta, who is here and of old standing, but the Morebunge Vackeel and Kirpesendow's deny that but insist that it is wholly part of the Morebunge* Raja's Morrattoe districts, nor did I ever hear any of the Gatseela people acknowledge that it belonged to their Zamindary.

In August I think it was that Kirpesendow came to me with a complaint that the Gatseela Raja had made an incursion into Cudjung, took his women prisoners and carried off all his effects. My first enquiry was who Kirpesendow was and whether Cudjung was not a purgannah in Gatseela Zemindary. Every one around me unanimously agreed that it was not but as I mention'd above I accordingly sent a perwanah to the Raja informing him of the complaint and to know his reason why he acted in such a manner and whether he had any claims on Kirpesendow. He answer'd not for sometime: at last on pressing him he said that he had orders from the Morebunge Raja so to do, but that if I disapproved he would not interfere, and that he also would return what he had carried off from Cudjung which he did. After this Kirpesendow proposed to pay a Tuskees to the Company in order to have the benefit of their protection. To this the Morebunge Vackeel who was on the spot objected by insisting that Kirpesendow could not make his Master's land over or liable to *tuskees* without his consent, as the other could not say he was independent. I took no more notice of the matter. It was after this that I was informed that his cousin Jaganaut, who was Zamindar of Uperuana, being removed thence by another layed claim to Cudjung, the inheritance of Goberdan Birnaich (Patnaik?) Kirpesendow's brother, and that he requested same form me to confirm him in his right. To this I answered "you are none of the Company's Zemindars, but the Morebunge Raja's independent inheritance. Whatever disputes you have in your own family these he must decide. If Jugurnut Dol or any of my people use you ill make your complaint to me and you'll find justice done you."

It was in consideration of that circumstance (of his being without the limits of our Purgas) that I avoided hitherto sending any orders of any kind altho' he visits to me sometimes in gratitude for doing him justice, and no doubt with a view to magnify his own importance. It is this Kirpesendow whom I meant for Diwan to the Raja, and I shall write him to repair here, according to your desire, and send him to Midnapore if you think necessary.

As to Govindram Sircar he is a good man enough, and the revenues at first went on well under him, but he understands not accounts nor writes well, if at all, and in such a purgannah as Gatseela his timorousness would prevent any good effects from his activity. He has run often to me here for protection in dread of his life Besides the Raja despoiled him at his I therefore doubt if he would undertake it. I am certain that the Gatseela Raja is in no distress nor at a loss how to pay his revenues were he separated from his evil councillors To my knowledge very large sums deposits of the former Raja fell into his hands, and the ryots etc. have contributed much above what has been paid into our hands. If then Sir you mean to benefit him with duty on the Salt, let me request that you would afford the same indulgence to the other Zemindars who stand equally in need of it.

The Gatseela Raja I have at present order'd to be kept within the Fort until he has brought up his arrears of revenue, which he is easily able

to do not having as yet advanced, any part of the general collection he made all over the purgannah last month, and until he has produced to me the Zemindar of Dampara, for whom he is security and who has stole cows and buffaloes to a considerable amount from Suphur, and whom I had drove out of the jungles long ago had not the Raja interposed. I must request the favour of some part as mine is almost expended.

With regard and esteem,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
J. FERGUSSON.

No. 321.

TO JOHN CARTIER, ESQ.,
Export Warehouse Keeper.

MIDNAPORE :
19th March, 1768.

SIR,

Inclosed I transmit for your observation a list of the investment which has this year been ordered on the Company's account at Midnapore together with a statement of the Kistbundeas that have been settled, and I flatter myself it will be delivered with regularity. It is the same as last year with the addition of 950 p. a. of every assortment of Goods excepting the Pinascos and ordinary Nillaes, the quantity of which you will observe to be already so large as hardly to require any increase. The price of Pinascos is advanced from Rs. 6 to Rs 6-12 and that of the superfine Sannoos reduced from Rs. 15 to 14, as I am well informed that the latter were dearer than necessary, and the former cheaper than could well be afforded.

I likewise transmit for your [ob]servation a copy of some directions which I have given to the Merchants that you may be kind enough to favour me with any remarks which.....this think may be useful

[G. VANSITTART.]

No. 322.

TO G. VANSITTART, ESQ., Midnapore.

CALCUTTA :
19th March, 1768.
(Received 20th, 1768)

SIR,

I have received your favour of the 6th ultimo regarding the Singboom Province.

As I hope soon to gain possession of Cutlac, I would rather chuse to defer taking any measures regarding Singboom till that time.

I am, etc.,
H. VERELST.

BULRAMPORE
20th March, 1768

To G VANSITTART

SIR

Your letter of yesterday I was favoured with this morning at 6 o'clock I had ordered the . . on explication of your perwana to be copied and sent it off under my own hand desiring the messenger to bring Kirpasindow as soon as possible, so that the circumstances of the salt traders and all being included I inclose your perwana

If the Gatseela Vackeel proves in the wrong I shall send him and the circumstances of the examination to you I did not know that the Gatseela Raja was immediately to repair to Midnapore and that no cause should prevent him, otherwise I had acted a very bad part in writing you as I did for my orders regarding him had been sent some time before in consequence of a letter from the Tasildar about the revenue who also insisted strongly on the head of evil councillors who they are at present he exactly know I hope however your goodness will induce you to forgive my having inadvertently appeared to have interfered with your orders and I shall immediately dismiss a messenger to cancel the instructions I had given regarding the Raja Govindram Sircar is at present at Patumbe where he has resided since he quitted Gatseela but I shall also write him to repair here whence according to your desire, I'll send him to Midnapore

As to Kirpasindow if the account I have is just the district is not his but his brother's Gouberdan Birnuck's It will afford me vast pleasure if you will be pleased to order me in for a few days on the occasion you mention not that I have the vanity to think that I can be of the least use to you in your determination but that I flatter myself I can give more light into the situation of Gatseela in particular and indeed of the jungles in general, by conversation than can easily be done in writing and also account for any part of my conduct that at present may appear inconsistent satisfactorily

I am obliged to you for the advice you have given me regarding my private affairs I have entered into no new concerns and I am hopeful that the most part of what I have will be entirely off my hands in April, if not will at least be lodged in my godown here waiting for the swell of the river

As to the Harcros I have nothing further to say of them than their peremptorily affirming that they belonged to Mr Verelst and they have imposed on the Mhan Zemindar by that means and even after they were put in charge of my Harcros insinuating to the Mhan Vackeel that they could set all to rights again and made no doubt of making me repeat my expeditions On this I ordered them into the Seapoy Guard to be allowed only rice dal, and salt and to be debarred conversation with the country people It was indeed told me that they carried it with a very high hand at Mhan Bhoom ordering the riots to furnish them goats milk, rice, &c and that they flogged some in a very cruel manner for remissness in those points but no direct complaint was made to me to that purpose. This day being stormy and rainy I shall send them in tomorrow under a guard of seapoys

I thank you for the supply of paper you have been pleased to send me and am &c

J FERARSON

No. 324.

No. 32.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQ.,
Collector-General.

MIDNAPORE :
22nd March, 1768.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your Letter of the 9th and 17th instant. I have granted 100 begas waste ground in the Midnapore Pergunna as a taaluc on the following Terms ; the Taaluc[dar] engages to cultivate half of it with malberry[trees] for the produce of raw silk, the other half is [to remain] at the Ryots disposal for the cultivation of [sugar] cane, tobacco etc , for their own convenience.....is to pay to the Zemindar for the first year[ten] Sicca Rupees—the Second 30—the third 45 a[nd the] fourth and ever afterwards 100 which last is [rather] less than a common renter would [have to pay for] the same quantity of ground according [to its] usual value in this part of the Province.

The cultivation of raw silk will be [encouraged] by it being thus made the means of [obtaining] for people [a gift of lands which they would] otherwise be obliged to purchase or hold upon [less] advantageous terms. The zemindars will receive rent for lands which at present yield them no manner of profit, and at the same time their unwillingness to be deprived of any part of their hereditary estates will induce them to exert their utmost endeavours that their lands may not remain uncultivated and so be liable to be taken from them. Be kind enough to inform me whether or not you approve of this plan. If you do I will continue to persue it, wherever opportunity may offer ; if not, I beg the favour of you to point out to me any other which you think more advisable.

I remain, etc.,
[G. VANSITTART.]

No. 325.

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ.

CALCUTTA :
28th March, 1768.
(Recd. 29th do.)

SIR,

I have received your favor of the 22nd instant, and have considered the grant you have made of 100 bigas of waste ground in the Midnapore pergunnah, in order to promote, the cultivation of mulberry trees : the terms I can't but approve. There can be, I think but one objection which will proceed from the zemindars, who I apprehend will not chuse to give up entirely their rights to the lands, tho' in reality it will prove to their advantage, but I do not see any reason why they should be indulged when their objection is only ideal, and when the measure is like to be productive of general good to the country and benefit our Employers.....many people here would be glad

to have talucks on the terms you mention in the Midnapore Province, and I doubt not in time a very considerable increase of revenue etc, of that useful article raw silk will be the consequence of pursuing the plan we are now upon.

I remain etc,
 RICHARD BECHER,
Collector-General

No. 326.

BULRAMPORE -
 28th March, 1768

TO G VANSITTART, Esq

SIR

A Vackeel of Kirpisendaw's is just arrived here who says he is perfectly versed in the affairs in question, and offers his attendance at Midnapore for that purpose Your orders whether to send him or wait sometime longer for Kirpasendaw himself, and whether my attendance will be requisite will oblige

Sir,
 Your most obdt. & humble Servant,
 J. FERGUSSON.

I have just sent a deer new killed, whose intrails I have taken out, in hopes it will reach in good order.

J F

No 327.

No 33

TO RICHARD BECHER, Esq,
Collector-General

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 28th, and view the zemindars' objections in the same light as you do I think therefore, we should continue to persue the plan we have fallen upon at least for the present I say *for the present*, because I have hopes that the zemindars themselves, in order to save their lands will enter into engagements for the cultivation of Raw Silk, which if they do, our purpose will be equally well answered without granting any new taluckdaries However, as this is as yet uncertain, I can see no objections to your listening to the offers which may be made you in Calcutta, and accepting them at least conditionally—in case the zemindars themselves do not enter into proper
 With respect to the terms you will observe that they only be settled agreeable to what I mentioned in my letter of the 22nd Instant in proportion to a quantity of the ground which is very different different parts To explain it is necessary, I shall inform you more particularly of the foundations went upon The whole of my grant was 100 beegas 50 for raw silk, and 50

for the Ryots to use and for sowing cane, tobacco etc, for the former the Customary .. in that part of the Pergunna is 2 3q for the latter, [on the] supposition that in order to persuade the ryots to take a business which they have not been used to which requires a good deal of labour and attendance, the Taluckdar will be obliged to abate somewhat of customary rent, I calculated the former at 2 per cent and the latter at 1 at which rate the yearly amount is 150 Rs, and this I caused to be divided $\frac{2}{3}$ rd for the pro of the Zemindar free from risks and expences and $\frac{1}{3}$ rd for the use of Taaluckdar If the Calcutta people who are desirous of talucks can bring any ryots with them, it will be so much the better, as these provinces would furnish labour and sustenance to many more inhabitants than they at present contain.

About the 10 of this month I purpose setting out on a visit to such of the pergunnas under my charge as seem most to require my presence Have you anything in particular to recommend to my attention?

[G VANSITTART]

No 328

BULRAMFORE

1st April, 1768.

TO G VANSITTART, Esq

SIR,

I have received your letter of 30th Kirpasendow is not yet arrived, but I expect him daily as does his Vackeel

I have both wrote and sent a man (in my opinion) of probity to the Gatseela Raja desiring him to represent his grievances if founded on faith, and to give an instance of the violence of my Gomastas he has disregarded both nor, either by Vackeel or letter, will he condescend to give an instance to strengthen or verify his complaint From a variety of reasons therefore, which shall be communicated in due time I am earnest to have the present state of Gatseela canvassed in your presence as soon as possible as matters are in such a situation there at present (if what intelligence I have thence be true) that if this step is deferred I am afraid disagreeable consequences will ensue which I can by no means answer for, as my orders are disregarded there, I mean as far as concerns the Raja as to the Tasildar I look on him in a far different light I mean as a person of both abilities and probity, and I can affirm he keeps up a regular correspondence with me, informing me of all particulars that reach his ears

If then Sir you will please to order the Raja to Midnapore now, I am persuaded, Kirpasen low will not be behind him, and Govindram Circar is already arrived here and will proceed to Midnapore with me when you are pleased to call on me I judged it proper to detain him here as if he proceeds to Midnapore before the Gatseela Raja, it may render him diffident of going, as he must be sensible he has used Govindram ill Gaur Hurry was sometime ago seized with a violent rheumatick fever of wch after several days he could not get the better here, so I permitted him to go to his home in the Burdwan Province so soon as he recovers he will return.

Herewith I do myself the pleasure to transmitt you a Return of the Seapoys as disposed according to your order here and in the respective Purgas

I am, with regard,
Sir,
Your most obdt and humble servant
J FERGUSSON

I could have sent another deer to day, but the condition of the last as also of the wild hog you was good enough to send here deter d me

J F

No 329

To MR GEORGE VANSITTART

BELVIDERE
2nd April, 1768,
(Recd 7th do)

SIR

I have received your Letter of the 25th ultimo

I have had the Hircarrabs severely punished for their audacity Should anything of a similar nature hereafter occur, I would have the offenders detained till you hear from me that they may receive their punishment on the spot where their offences were committed The Guard of Sepoys are herewith returned

I am etc ,
H VEPELST

No 330

BULRAMPORE
4th April, 1768

To G VANSITTART ESQ

SIR,

I yesterday received your letter enclosing the 2 perwanas wch I immediately forwarded , and as the bearer is an excellent walker I am persuaded he'll arrive there this day about 3 o'clock PM

Kirpasendow is already arrived, and so soon as I shall have heard that the Gatseela Raja is on his way I shall set out for Midnapore in order to attend you

I am much obliged to you for your offer of a room in the Factory house but if my occupying a room there will in the less . . . you, I can quarter myself on the Doctor

I am, with regard
Sir,
Your most obedient & humble Servant,
J FERGUSSON

BULRAMPORE
9th April, 1768

TO G VANSITTART

SIR,

This moment I have received a letter from the Tasildar at Gatseela informing me (that he had sent to the Raja who lives about 6 miles from the Fort to desire that he might in compliance with orders brought both by Harcrios from Midnapore and here, repair to Midnapore without delay taking every method to engage the Raja to go by assuring him it would turn to his advantage in every respect) and that the Raja sent him for answer that he was sick at any rate that he was not disposed to go anywhere that he had appointed a person on his part to be near him that Tasildar in order to be accountable for the revenue and that he himself could not think of going anywhere

The Tasildar adds that he knows not whether this intelligence is true or false but that the Raja is led up and down the jungles by his evil councillors who deter him from coming near even the fort not to mention Midnapore. He likewise writes that it is a great trouble and difficulty to collect the revenue, as he is cautious of using the least violence lest it should give a plausible handle to the people about the Raja to hasten him to worse measures. I must at the same time acquaint you that the Raja sent for his Zemindar who stole the bufalos and cattle from Suphur and made him return most of them so as to satisfy the Suphur Vackeel. I cannot really make any observation at all on his conduct therefore worthy your notice. I should be very glad if you would please to advise me how to act on the occasion or whether it is necessary to take any notice at all of it. Kirpasindow is here still. He has once or twice desired to leave his Vackeel as his own affairs are not . by his absence but I have hitherto detained him untill an answer was received from Gatseela and your orders subsequent to such answer should be transmitted me. Govindram (ircar has several complaints against the Raja of violence done to himself and several of his relations all of which I desired him to suspend untill either the Raja himself or some of his principal people were on the spot whether Midnapore or here that the matter might be fairly canvassed. There are likewise some riots here with complaints against the Raja and I did not allow them an audience hitherto lest it might alarm the Raja and prevent his coming to Midnapore. I request you'll please to send me what orders and instructions you deem best adapted to remedy these evils in the pargunnah and how I am to conduct myself to their complaints

I am &c,
J FERGUSSON.

I must beg leave to trouble you to acquaint Mr. Pierce that I have twice overhauled my papers in quest of the plan but have not as yet found it. I shall again have a strict search for it and tomorrow acknowledge his favor and advise him of the result. Excuse this freedom—J F.

CALCUTTA

11th April, 1768

(Recd 12th do)

To GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ

SIR,

I have had your favor of the 1st and 3rd instant, and sent back the Midnapore and Jallasore Vakeels, having first advanced them 200 Rupees for travelling charges

I have likewise received your letter of the 7th with the treasury accounts for the last month and a Bill upon the Paymaster General Current Rupees 9,100

I entirely approve of your continuing to pursue for the present the plan which you propose for encouraging the cultivation of Raw Silk, and if the Zemindars can be prevail'd on to enter into proper engagements for this purpose I think it would be certainly more eligible than granting new Taalnodarries in the interim any offers which may be made to me here shall only be . . . * as you desire

Your settling the terms in proportion to the quality of the ground is certainly proper as well as the means you propose for encouraging the Ryotts to undertake this business. However, as it is probable they will soon become sensible of the advantages arising from this method of culture, I fancy there will be no necessity for continuing these indulgencies after a few examples may have produced this effect

In your intended visit to the purgunnahs I would chiefly recommend you to inform yourself if the people labour under distresses from the oppression of Zemindars, or otherwise, and which are the most likely means to redress their grievances, also what parts will best admit of the cultivation of mulberry trees etc and if † swamps and jungle ground, which without much difficulty be clear'd or drain'd, or if any other measures should occur to you for encreasing the Company's Revenue without oppressing the Ryotts I desire you will communicate them to me

I am, etc ,

RICHD BOONER,

Collector-General.

No. 333

CALCUTTA

15th April, 1768

(Recd 18th do)

To GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 10th instant, with your Treasury Account for last month, and Bills and Exchange for Current Rupees 67,600

I am, etc ,

JAS ALEXANDER,

Collector-General.

* Top line of page obliterated

† Do do do

No 334

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Committee of Accounts of the
20th April, 1768*

The Committee recommend that it be again repeated to all the subordinates to send down estimates of all material expenses and repairs in hand together with an account of what has already been disbursed on them that the Company may compare the same with the monthly accounts in the course of their examination in pursuance to the orders issued for the purpose

True Extract
SIMEON DROZ,
Secretary

 No 335

CALCUTTA
22nd April, 1768
(Recd May 9th)

To G VANSITTART, Esq

SIR,

Some of the Ryotts of Cossijurah having presented the enclosed petition to me, I request you will cause an enquiry to be made into their grievances, and let them have what redress may seem necessary

I am, etc ,
RICHARD BECHER,
Collector-General

 No 336

BULRAMPORE
April 23rd, 1768

To GEO VANSITTART, Esq

SIR,

As soon as I arrived here I proceeded immediately to dispose of Jeyramsing's company of seapoys, according to your orders of the 17th current, recommending especially to them in every respect to obey the orders of the Thannadars and Tahsildars of their respective stations

Numbers of complaints and applications to me for redress will be the consequence of marching in the companies to Midnapore at the end of the month without their pay, should the several bodies be arrived This the Circars of the companies having represented to me here, as seapoys have

contracted various petty debts with the country people which they will not be able to discharge without their pay, I would esteem it a particular favour if you would please to permit me to draw their pay this month here, by which means I shall be able to adjust matters to the mutual satisfaction of the parties, after which the seapoys may be marched in immediately. As to myself, I must beg leave to represent that 14 or 15 days will be necessary in order to enable me tolerably to settle my private affairs and to put the Companies on the footing on which I should wish to leave them. Your pleasure and direction, after consideration, will oblige one, who is with real regard and esteem,

Sir, etc.,

J. FERGUSSON.

I have received your letter of the 21st.

Jam Ram Chuckervutty being a servant of mine I have wrote him in the severest terms on account of so iniquitous practice, but I am certain that it is not on my account, as I absolutely forbid him to lend money on any conditions.—J. F.

No. 337.

To the Hon'ble Gentlemen of the Board of Fort William in Bengal.
(Undated).

The humble petition of Yocoob Narayn
Said Hogerah Bayet of Perguna
Cossijoda of the Chacklah Midnapur

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

Your petitioner humbly beg-leave to Yr. Honours to represent their humble petition into the Hon'ble Board, that your petitioner been always ready to pay every year Maidgurasee according our contract or duty to Hon'ble Company. Now the Ram Shancoz and.....of Raja Narain, jemidar of Cossijoda they join with one Choroo Ram Nayb Cangor from chalah Midnapore, whom have with their insolent minds, have took'd by force some more 8 annas for every bigga, and 2 Rs. 3 As. rent of every house. Therefore we all ryots have resolved together to make our complaints to the Hon'ble Board, and pray the favour to make appear the said Ram Shancoz, Ojeran Patuareah and Chook Ram to answer about the shirbences that they began upon us poor rayatts, but as for the Company's cajanias or maullguzaree we shall never be in leasure to answer to Hon'ble Company which is our duty, and we hope that the Hon'ble Board will take in their serious consideration to despatch these our cause, for which shall ever pray.

COLAADY NAYEK,
DENU NURANA,
CHENOO BAIRA,
GOPY PALIE.

No 338

FORT WILLIAM
The 25th April, 1768
(Recd 29th do)

To G VANSITTART, Esq,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

We herewith enclose a copy of extract from the Proceedings of the Committee of Account held the 20th instant, which we strictly enjoin you to comply with

We are, etc,
 H VERELST
 JOHN CARTIER
 RICHD BECHER
 JAMES ALEXANDER,
 W ALDERSEY

EXD SIMON DROZ
Secretary

 No 339

CALCUTTA
25th April, 1768
(Recd 27th do)

To G VANSITTART, Esq

SIR

I have received your favor of the 19th, and think that the Company ought certainly to defray the travelling charges incurr'd by the vakeels in their journey to Calcutta and back therefore desire you will let the amount be included in your monthly accounts

Such of the Calcutta people as are desirous of becoming Tauludars will proceed to Midnapore as soon as possible in order to treat with you upon the subject and that they may learn the proposals from yourself and should the terms be agreeable to them they will supply what additional ryotts may be necessary from hence

In examining your Treasury account for last month it appears to be an error in the following addition under the head of the Midnapore Province though it does not affect the closing of the account I request you will rectify it, and advise me how you make the alteration

Norabigns	...	15 012
Bagumchums		4 412
Gur anl		426
		<hr/> 19 900

I am etc,

RICHD BECHER
Collector General.

April 28th, 1768

To G VANSITTART, ESQ

SIR,

So soon as I arrived here, I proceeded immediately to dispose of Iyoramang's company of seapoys, according to your orders of the 17th current recommending specially to them in every respect to obey the orders of the Tannadars and Tahsildars of their respective stations

Numberless complaints and applications to me for redress will be the consequence of marching in the companies to Midnapore at the end of this month without their pay should the several coolies be arrived This the Circars of the Company have represented to me here as the seapoys have contracted various petty debts with the country people wch they will not be able to discharge without their pay I would esteem it a particular favour, then, if you would be pleased to permitt me to draw their pay this month here, by which means I shall be able to adjust these matters to the mutual satisfaction of the parties after wch the seapoys may be marched in immediately As to myself I must beg leave to represent that 14 or 15 days will be necessary in order to enable me tolerably to settle my private affairs, and to put the Company's on the footing on which I should wish to leave them

Your pleasure and direction, after consideration of these circumstances will oblige one who is, with real regard and esteem, (&c)

J FERGUSON.

Your letter of the 21st I have received Ram Chachurvitty being a servant of mine, I have wrote him in the severest terms on account of such an iniquitous practice, but I am certain it is not on my account, as I absolutely forbid him to land money on any conditions

No 341

Account of Treasure received from Midnapur from 17th March 1767, to the 30th April 1768, inclusive

1767

March 17th Received the amount of Mr Graham's invoice of 12 chests Treasure dated the 25th ultimo viz —

	Rs. As P	Rs. As P	Rs. As P
5 chests containing 7 sun siccas		28 000 0 0	
12 do do	78 778 0 0		
Deduct short weight	6 778 0 0		
		72 000 0 0	
Amount of Invoice sicca weight			100,000 unbrought
Credit as follows —			
5 chests containing 7 sun siccas	28 000 0 0		
Deduct Batta on 3500 bad			
Its. @ 2 per cent	70 0 0		
		27,930 0 0	
12 chests containing Rupees of different species.			
Sicca Weight	72 000 0 0		
Deduct Batta Rs 10 3 a. per cent.	6 636 13 6		
Remains		65 343 2 6	93,273 2 6

1768

February 8th Received the amount of Mr Vansittart's Invoice of 17 chests of Treasure dated the 9th ultimo, viz —

3 chests containing sicca	Rupees	18,000	0	0
6 do do 7 sun		36,000	0	0
7 do do Noira Begius		44,655		
1 do do Bazers	Rs 444			
Gursaul	3,615			
		7,059		

	51,714	
Deduct short weight	5,714	
	46,000	

17 Chests containing sicca weight ~ 100,000

Brought to credit as follows —

	Rs	As	P	Rs	As	P	Rs	As	P
3 chests containing sicca Rupees	18,000	0	0						
Deduct Batta on Mullol Rupees @ 2 per cent	45	0	0						
				17,955	0	0			
6 Chests containing 7 sun sicca	36,000	0	0						
Deduct	90	0	0						
	35,910	0	0						
Deduct Batta Rs 2 10 6 per cent	929	3	0						
				34,980	13	0			

Noira begius 44 655 0-0

(Illegible) - 3,444-0 0

48,099

Deduct short weight 5 099

43,000 0 0

Deduct Batta Rs 10 3 p cent 3 976 10 0

39,024 6 0

(Illegible) 8,615

Deduct short weight 615

3 000 0 0

Deduct Rs 22 11 9 p cent 654 12 3

2,445 8 9

94,403 6 9 109,510 4 6

Received the amount of Mr George Vansittart's Invoice of 9 chests of Treasure dated the 10th instant, viz —

2 chests containing sicca	Rs	12,000	0	0
2 Do 7 sun siccas	"	12,000	0	0
4 Do Noira begius		24,963	0	0
1 Do Bruyrucks	3 527			
Gursauls	1,223			
		4,750	0	0

	29,713	0	0
Deduct short weight	3,713	0	0
	26,000	0	0

9 chests containing sicca weight 60,000 0 0

Brought to Credit as follows —

2 chests containing sicca Rs. 12,000	0	0	
Deduct Batta on Mullol			
Rs 1,500 @ 2 p cent.	30	0	0
			11,970 0 0
2 chests containing 7 sun			
siccas	12,000	0	0
Deduct Batta on Mullol			
Rs 1,500 @ 2 p. cent	30	0	0
			11,970 0 0
Deduct Batta @ Rs. 2-10 6			
p cent.	309	12	0
			11,660 4 0
(Illegible)	1,200		
Deduct short weight 200	1,000	0	0
Deduct Batta Rs 22-11			
p cent	184	15	0
			815 1 0
			47 133 14 6
			54,675 5 6
			Rupees — 2,34,812 7 9
			2,72,382 7 6

Collector's Catcherry,
(Illegible) th July 1768

	Dispatched	Received
	Rs As P	Rs, As P
1767 March —	1,11,840 1 3	1,08,196 13 9
1768 January —	1,11,774 1 6	1,09,510 4 6
February —	56,110 3 3	54,675 5 6

Received from Midnapore from 17th March 1767 to 30th April 1768 inclusive.

No. 342.

Account of Treasure received from Midnapur from 17th March to 30th April, 1768 inclusive

1767

March 17th. Received the amount of Mr Graham's Invoice of 17 chests Treasure on the 23th ultimo, viz:—

5 chests containing 7 sun siccas	—	28,000
12 Do do	Rs. 78,778	
Deduct short weight	—	6,778
		72,000
Amount of Invoice sicca weight	—	1,00,000 unbrought

Credit as follows —

5 chests containing 7 sun siccas	—	28,000
Deduct Batta on 3,500 bad Rs. @ 2 p cent.	—	70
		27,930

12 chests containing Rupees of different species.

Sicca weight	—	72,000 0 0
Deduct Batta Rs. 10-3 p. cent.	—	6,656 13 6

Remains — 65,343 2 6

93,273 2 6

1768

February 8th Received the amount of Mr Vansittart's Invoice of 17 chests of Treasure dated the 9th ultimo, viz —

3 chests containing sicca — Rs. 18,000
 6 do do 7 sun — " 36,000
 7 do do Noira begius — " 44,655

1 do do Bazera 3,444
 Gursaul 3 615
 ————— 7,059

51,714
 Deduct short weight — 5,714
 —————

46 000

17 chests containing sicca weight — — 1,00,000

Brought to credit as follows —

	Rs	As.	P	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
3 chests containing sicca Rupees	18,000	0	0						
Deduct Batta on Mullol Rupees @ 2 0 0 per cent.	45	0	0						
				17,955	0	0			

6 chests containing 7 sun sicca — 36,000 0 0
 Deduct — 90 0 0

55,910 0 0
 Deduct Batta Rs 2 10 6 per cent — 929 8 0

34,980 18 0

Noira begius Rs 44,655-0 0
 Bazyrucks, 3,444-0 0

48,099
 Deduct short weight — 5,099

43 000 0 0

Deduct Batta Rs 10-3-0 p cent 3 975 10 0

59,024 6 0

Deduct — Rs 3 615-0 0

Deduct short weight — " 615 0-0

3,000 0 0

Deduct Rs. 22 11-9 p cent — 554 12 3

2,445 3 9

94,405 6 9 1,02,510 4 6

Received the amount of Mr George Vansittart's Invoice of 9 chests of Treasure dated the 10th instant, viz —

2 chests containing sicca Rupees — 12 000 0 0
 2 do 7 sun siccas — " 12 000 0 0

4 do Noira Begius — 24,903 0 0

1 do Bazyrucks 3 527-0-0
 Gursauls — 1,223 0 0

4 750 0 0

29,713 0 0

Deduct short weight — 3,713 0 0

26,000 0 0

9 chests containing sicca weight — — 50,000 0 0

Brought to credit as follows —

9 chests containing sicca Rupees	12 000	0	0			
Deduct Batta on Mullol Rupees 1,500 @ 2 p cent.	300	0	0			
				11,970	0	0

2 chests containing 7 sun siccas — 12 000 0 0

Deduct Batta on Mullol Rs 1,500 @ 2 p cent — 30 0 0

11,970 0 0

Deduct Batta @ Rs 2 10 6 p cent — 309 12 0

11,660 4 0

No. 343

MIDNAPORE
9th May, 1768

TO THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, ESQ.,

President and Governor and Council of Fort William

Herewith I have the Honour to enclose you the accounts of this Factory for the month of April I have been favoured with your commands of the 25th April and shall pay strict attention thereto At present here are no material repairs in hand nor any other Expences than the constant necessary one of keeping in good order the Fort and Esplanade the Officers and Sepoys Quarters and the other Buildings belonging to the Factory

I am &c,
[G VANSITTART]

No 344

CALCUTTA
13th May, 1768
(Recd 15th do)

TO G VANSITTART, ESQ

SIR,

The Collector General has receiv'd your letter of the 2nd and has rectified the mistake in your March account in the manner you point out

I am etc,
F HOLME JUNR,
Deputy Collector

No 345

FORT WILLIAM
18th May 1768
(Recd 1st June)

TO MR GEORGE VANSITTART,

Resident at Midnapore

SIR

We herewith enclose you a copy of a publication which we have made at the Presidency, and which we desire may be made publick where you are

We are Sir,
Your most obedient Servants

H VERELST,
RICHARD SMITH
JAM ALEXANDER
CLAUDE RUSSELL,
W ALDERSTY,
CHARLES FLOYER.

Exd SIMON DROZ

Secretary

Transd. J HOGARTH

ENCLOSURE

Copy of a Publication made at Fort William The 18th May, 1768

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that after the expiration of two months from the 27th April, no Gomastah employed by the English shall be permitted to remain in any part of the provinces *Benqall, Bahar, and Orissa* and after that period, That no Company's Servant Free Merchant, or other European residing under the Company's Protection, shall be suffered to carry on any inland trade directly or indirectly beyond those limits under penalty, if a Company's Servant of being immediately dismissed the Service, if a Free Merchant or other European of forfeiting the Company's protection, and That, if any European whatsoever shall attempt to transport any merchandize beyond the provinces, all such merchandize shall be seized and confiscated, and the Gomastahs having charge of all such contraband trade shall be punished with the utmost severity.

All Armenians, Portugeze or the descendants of Armenians and Portugeze living under the Company's protection are included in the above restrictions, it being intended that none but the natives of the country (Mussulmen and Hindoos) shall enjoy this privilege

By order of the Hon'ble the President and Council.

A true Copy,

EDWARD BABER,

Assistant Secretary

No 346

CALCUTTA

25th May, 1768

TO MR G VANSITTART,

Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

This serves to acknowledge your letter of the 9th with your Treasury account for April and bills for Ct Rs 22,900 enclosed therein

There are, I understand about ten of the Cossajurah Ryotts still remaining here who conceal themselves from the most diligent search, with a view probably to be ready to render their complaint should your decision be unfavourable to them If they can anywhere be found they shall be immediately returned to you

I am, etc ,

F. HOLME, JUNR ,

Deputy Collector

No 347

CALCUTTA

25th May, 1768

(Recd 29th Do)

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq

SIR,

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 9th with your Treasury Account for April and Bills for Rs 22,900 enclosed therein

There are, I understand about ten of the Cossijurah Ryotts still remaining here who conceal themselves from the most diligent search, with a view probably to be ready to renew their complaint, should your decision prove unfavourable to them. If they can anywhere be found they shall be immediately returned to you

I am, etc,

F HOLME,

Deputy Collector.

No 348

MIDNAPORE

The 1st June, 1768.

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq,

Collector-General

SIR,

For two months past the Zemindar of Gatselah the Principal Pergunna belonging to our Western Junguls has constantly evaded complying with my order; his revenue has fallen in arrears, and he seems now to have concerted a plan to assure an entire independency, should leisure be allowed him for the full execution of his purposes, several others of the Zemindars should probably follow his example, we should lose possession of great part of the Junguls during the rainy season, and afterwards be put to much trouble and expence to reconquer them. An immediate remedy appearing therefore to be necessary, I have appointed an intelligent and trustworthy man to the office of his Dewan, and sent Lieutenant Rooke with two Companies of Seapoys establish his authority over the Pergunna, and remove the Principal of the Zemindar's present advisers. As to the Zemindar himself, I do not intend to deprive him of this Pergunna if he submits quickly to this regulation. Being a lad incapable of managing his own business, his faults are to be ascribed to his ministers rather than to himself. Inclosed I transmit for your observation a copy of my orders to Lieutenant Rooke

I have received Mr. Holme's Letter of the 13th and 25th of May. .

I am with esteem,

[G VANSITTART]

FORT WILLIAM :
1st June, 1768
(Recd 11th do)

TO MR GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

We herewith enclose you a copy of the 37th paragraph of the Hon'ble Company's General Letter dated the 30th November 1767, and direct that the Contents may be very strictly adhered to

As the Hon'ble Court of Directors have remarked that the Books of the Subordinates with the statements of the Factories are not transmitted to them as regularly as they would have them, we do positively direct that the Books of your Factory be sent down every year, on or before the 1st of September, nor will any excuse whatever be admitted for your not complying with their orders.

We also strictly enjoin you to send the statements of your Factory to us monthly.

We are, etc ,

H VERELST,
RICHARD SMITH,
JAS ALEXANDER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
WM. ALDERSEY,
CHARLES FLOYER

Exd. SIMON DROZ,
Secretary.

Duplicate
No 350.

FORT WILLIAM
1st June, 1768

TO MR GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapur

SIR,

We herewith enclose you copy of the 37th paragraph of the Hon'ble Company's General Letter dated the 30th November, 1767, and direct that the contents may be strictly attended to

As the Hon'ble the Court of Directors have remarked that the books of the Subordinates with the statement of the Factories are not transmitted to them as regularly as they would have them, we do positively direct that the books of your Factory be sent down every year on or before the 1st of September, nor will any excuse whatsoever be admitted for your non-compliance with this order.

We also strictly enjoin you to send the statements of your Factory to us monthly

We are, Sir, etc ,
H VERELST,
RICHARD SMITH,
JAS ALEXANDER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
W. ALDERSEY,
(CHARLES FLOYER

Exd SIMEON DROZ,
Secretary

ENCLOSURE 1

Extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter O/o the Admiral Watson dated the 20th November, 1767

Para 37 We are much concerned to find there is some ground for complaint this season as there was last with respect to the cargoes of the French and Dutch ships being more valuable than ours owing to the larger proportion of fine goods than we receive, of which we have undoubted information from persons who were present at the said Company's late sales, and as we have great reason to believe that some of our servants have been concerned in providing cargoes for the French and Dutch ships, we therefore direct you to discover who among them have been guilty of so great a breach of trust, and let the persons be whom they may that shall appear to have acted as unfaithful and injurious a part to their employers, you are immediately to dismiss them our service and send them home, allowing them a reasonable time only for settling their private concerns, which time is not to exceed twelve months

A true Extract
LDW HABER,
Assistant Secretary

Transcribed by
S BIRD

ENCLOSURE 2

Extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter dated the 20th November, 1767

Para 55th By an Act passed last Session of Parliament, which you will herewith receive you will further see the agreement at present subsisting between the Public and the Company with respect to a Participation in the advantages arising from the Company's late Territorial Acquisitions and Revenues. In consequence of this Agreement it is indispensably necessary that you should transmit to us a Complete Account of the sums received from the Revenues of Bengal and Behar from the commencement of the Dewannee continued to the latest together with the particulars of the several sums that have been paid on that account such as the Tribute to the King, the Nabob's allowance, the payments of the Seats,* the ordinary charges of collection, or of any other sums to the payments of which the Revenues may be subject whereby the amount of the Siccary Revenue may be seen at one view

* The Seths—the great banking family of Murehbadabad

Para 56 In this Account it is requisite that you should particularize the several monthly Receipts and Payments in order that we may be enabled to separate the same for any Resid that may be necessary, and you must take care that the account be duly signed by the President and Council as well as such of your servants as by their station are qualified to authenticate the same

Para 57 Tho' the Revenues arising from the Dewannees are the more immediate object of Public Attention, you must not fail to transmit to us at the same time an account properly authenticated of the other Revenues of the Presidency objected in like manner with respect to Receipts and Payments and to correspond with the Period of the Dewannee and Sircarry Revenues, from both which accounts we may form such a State[ment] of our Revenues as may be required of us

Para 58 You will perceive by the Act of Agreement that in case of the Company's being dispossessed by any Foreign Power of any part of their Territorial Acquisitions and Revenues, a Proportional Abatement is to be made from the annual sum to be paid to the Public We, therefore, rely on your judgement for supplying us in any case with every particular information and account that may be necessary to support an Application for the redress specified in the Act

A true Copy

(sd) EDWD BABER,

Secretary

A true copy

F HOLME JUNR,

Deputy Collector.

No 351

MONDYPORE

June 1st, 1768

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq

SIR,

I arrived here this morning betwixt the hours of nine and ten, was a good deal perplext how to furnish the sepoys with provisions and other necessaries the Barzaur not making their appearance 'till three o'clock in the afternoon, and even then in such a state as obliged me to make use of the stock you sent with me for a rainy day here to come The inclosed is a list of such things which is wanting deliver d to by Hurry Churn Dos, which thing he informs you gave orders should be brought by the Ballick People

And other circumstances I should be glad you would set me right in What is to be the standard price of rice? the Sejoys having been complaining that the Barzaur men will not give them the same quantity of rice for a rupee, as is the market price at Midnapore whether they are to have it at the same rate as at Midnapore is a point I am not able to adjust till such time as I hear from you

To-morrow morning we march for Cullampore, five coss distant from this

I am, (etc),
G Rooke

Compliments if you please to Mrs Vansittart and the Gentlemen

No. 352

CHUCKCOLEA
June 4th, 1768

TO GEORGE VANSITTART .

SIR,

Yesterday morning I halted at Jambunee, about two coss distant from Aulumpore, from which place I was joined by twenty-one pike men, who did me eminent service conducted me out of my road, and then, four excepted (which I link hand to hand) walk off into the Jungals since which time I have seen no more of them This village before my arrival this morning was totally deserted by its inhabitants, nothing to be procured for the sepoy nor is this the first place I ve met with in the like condition This day I received more information, that there is a man, now residing at Midnapore who has sent people to the different Zemindars and others, informing them of the detachment of sepoy advancing towards them, and at the same time advising them to leave their habitments I will not pretend to assert this as a matter of fact, as I am not acquainted with the country language, and therefore necessitated to rely on the interpretations of others The man I've been speaking of, sending people as before is one Churranagosh, (Naib to Moysindar) who they tell me receives money at stated times from Zemindars of the places here about

The men that agree in this account are the Vackeel (you) sent with me, and one Govindram late Dewan to the Gatsela Raja He came from Bulrampore, meet me yesterday at Aulumpore

Just now one of my Harcaras came to me, informing me, that some of the Gatsela Raja's people with bows and arrows were lurking about this place I have no other circumstance to relate at present I expect to be at Gatsela the day after to-morrow early in the morning

I am, (etc),
G. Rooke

No 353

5th June, 1769

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I have been favoured with your Commands of the 2nd instant and have in consequence directed Captain Morgan with Ensign Nun and five Companies of Seapoys to march immediately to the cantonments to Gheritty and act agreeably to the orders which he will there receive from you

[G VANSITTART]

TILLIABUND
June 8th, 1768

To G VASITTART

SIR,

Yesterday night, by moon light, we left the Fort of Gatseela in hopes of coming on the Raja unawares for I found by the inhabitants of the country that he never would come near me whilst those people you gave me orders to take hold of were about his person. We arrived here about the break of day, just time enough to see some of the villagers run into the jungles the Raja slept there all night, and walls away on our approach. The sepoy's I must confess behaved very ill they fired about twenty shots at some poor wretches as they were running away with difficulty I put a stop to it by good luck no one was hit. The village they have plunder'd of some trifling things, some cattle, rice, and paddy, brass pots & few. Some mounds of rice and paddy I have saved. A number of small baskets was found in the bungalow, them that I have open'd contain small cover cloaths the rest I am not as yet acquainted with they were brought in this night. None of the riots are return'd. I have given them their husbandry utensils which the sepoy's had pucker'd. They were content to remain. I have given them my word should any sepoy or followers of the camp molest them, on their making complaint to me I will punish the sepoy's and others severely. A quantity of powder, lead and six and seven swords, were found in the jungles with ingredients for making powder.

One Nemi Doll uncle to Juggernaut Doll with four others (but none of them you wanted) has fell into our hands. The uncle gives me hopes that we shall be able to lay hold of the Rajah, but for my part I see little prospects of it.

A Jemmidar and 20 sepoy's I found in the Fort of Gatseela detach'd from the Company at Bulrampur. The Jemmidar a few days before my arrival had laid hold of the Rajah, but being obliged to obey the orders of the Tessimdar there was necessitated to relieve him. I am informed the Tessimdar got some rupees for the service done the Raja. I wrote to the Raja while I was at Gatseela, and sent by a Harcara who returned in about six hours and brought me word that he was admitted to cross the river, which is about three coss from this but that the Raja's Dewan swam from the opposite side. . . received my letter, and told the Harcara

that the Raja would not come to me on any account, said that he would give the letter and if the Raja would give his consent for him to come to me, he would be with me on the day following. I could not confide in the Harcara's report for being question'd about the road his account was so widely different from that which Phad Sen told by the you sent with me (and he is the man I most rely on) that I've left him (Harcara) in charge of the Jemmedar at Gatseela.

I wrote you some days ago, giving you an account of the information I had received about Churranagosh. Should . . still agree in the same old story.

I have not yet seen Kripasindoo

I am, etc
Geo Rooke

June 9th, 1768

To G VANSITTART

SIR,

I have just received your letter with this day's order both which afforders me surprise I have seen Mr Graham's order on the subject which I believe was given out when the Commanding Officer of the 14th Battalion was not in the Garrison, or I believe Mr Graham would hardly have thought of diminishing the authority of the Commanding Officer as his behaviour to me during his stay evidently evinces, but whatever Mr Graham meant by his behaviour to me, such was my situation in this Garrison that whatever orders the Chief is pleased to give out be it ever so contrary to the principles of military discipline, I am obliged to comply with them, because I can't expect redress, knowing how necessary it is to keep the superiority in the civil power How generous of it is in you to take advantage of it, or how much my experience in Military affairs and the order my Battalion have always been in is deserving of it I leave you to determine

Your politeness to me merited my attention towards you, and I am pretty sure that no subadar was ever absent from Muster without my acquainting you of it before he left the Garrison, and I was even coming to acquaint you of Gopey Sing's intended departure when you acquainted me with your order for his marching with you How irregular and detrimental to Military order your Commanding detachments . my Battalion without my knowing anything of it you ought to be the best judge

I am very glad it has happened because it has already given me so much that any order you give out hereafter will be indifferent to me

Your orders are already given out and shall be obeyed

I am (etc),
C MORGAN

No 356

To THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, Esqr,

President and Governor and Council of Fort William

MIDNAPORE,

23rd June, 1768

HON BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I have been favoured with your commands of the 1st instant and shall strictly attend to them The Midnapore Factory Books were last year transmitted to the Presidency in the month of June, and it is to these only I apprehend your Orders relate The Revenue Books not being closed till the end of the Orissa year, which answers to the beginning of September and being directed to be sent to the office of the Collector-General

Inclosed is an Indent of Stationary which I request will order to be complied with

I am, etc,
[G. VANSITTART]

No 357.

To RICHARD BECHER, ESQR,
Collector-General.

MIDNAPORE
23rd June, 1768

Sir,

Inclosed I transmit for your information a list of the Contracts which I have this year procured for the Cultivators of Raw Silk and also a Statement of the Waste Lands in Midnapore and Jalesore Chucklas. By this Statement you will perceive that 24,900 Begas of Waste Lands were cultivated last year, and that 24,200 are engaged to be cultivated this year, and that the remaining Waste Lands in the two Chucklas will there amount only to 18600—Begas. I speak only of the Waste Land which is deemed fit for Cultivation, for that which is deemed unfit there is in several Pergunnas a very large quantity, and of this I must observe that the greatest part is not actually incapable of Cultivation but only is in such a state that it will at first be attended with a good deal of labour and expences and therefore can hardly be expected to be undertaken till the number of Inhabitants is considerably increased.

What with the Raw Silk which is already produced in the Midnapore districts, and the increase which may be expected, the quantity, I hope, will in a short time be large enough to become an object worthy of our attention for the benefit of the Hon'ble Company in that valuable branch of this Investment. With this exception, I wish much that some families of Winders could be induced to settle at Midnapore. My endeavours shall not be wanting to effect this point, but, as I have no immediate prospect of proceeding in it, I beg leave to refer it likewise to your consideration.

I am, etc,
G VANSITTART.

No 358

To G VANSITTART, ESQ

CALCUTTA.
25th June, 1768
[Received 26th, June]

Sir,

I have been favored with your letter of the 1st instant and very much approve of the measures you have taken of the checking of the arbitrary views of the Gatsela Zemindar and his dependents and likewise of the instructions given to Lieut. Rooke.

I have likewise received your letter of the 10th with bills of exchange amounting to R. 20,900.

I am (etc).
RICHARD BECHER,
Col Genl

To G VANDITTART

NARSINGUR

July the 8th, 1768.

(Recd 11th do)

SIR,

I arrived here the 7th Instant in the morning, where I found Mr Rooke recovered of his fever but is still very weak I overtook the Commandant at Bind and brought him all his detachment with me to this Fort

Jugganaut Doll is about twenty long coss from this place, and has got all the principal Zimindars along with him so that I have deferred putting your orders in execution I have wrote Purwannahs to the Rajah and Zimindars with him to endeavour to bring them in as it is absolutely impossible to catch these fellows while they have so few attendance. At present the Subunrecah has too much water in it to pass it without Boats I shall endeavour to procure a few by the time I have an answer from the Rajah, as I intend following him, if he does not come in immediately.

As the distance Jugganaut Doll in is so great, and the Pike fellows of this Country still in arms, it will be necessary to leave a strong Detachment in this Fort whenever I move, as it is practicable to storm it in every place Tomorrow morning I intend sending Nanderam's Company to Midnapore, but shall detain the twenty sepoy's that escorted my Baggage here for, I believe I shall have employment enough for them.

The Dumparah Fellow has been very troublesome, and prevents the People of this country from coming in I shall endeavour to lay hold of him, and will give him no quarter as I intend his Head shall grace the entrance of this Fort, for everybody gives him a very bad Character

a great way, and brought in with them above a hundred and fifty head of Cattle, which, I think, Mr Rooke had a right to look upon as lawful prize. He thought so at the time I ordered them to be sold. As you are now acquainted with the real circumstances of the affair, you will let me know your further pleasure on the subject, and your orders shall be obeyed. It is the only thing Rooke has made by his expedition, and certainly the Country fellows deserve a punishment of this sort to prevent their rebellion for the future.

Kirposindoo's pike fellows as well as the other pikes who are here having nothing to eat, and Kirposindoo tells me has no money to give them. I have ordered the Choudhry of the Buzar to give them meat every day and to bring it into the Company's accounts. I am obliged to do this or they will all leave me, which would distress me very much in case I march from here, as these pike fellows are more useful than sepoys in the Jungles, as flanking Parties and advance Guards.

It is all a joke to talk of licking these Jungle Fellows. They have not the least idea of fighting; they are like a parcel of wasps. They endeavour to sting you with their arrows, and then fly off. It is impossible almost to kill any of them, as they always keep at a great distance and fling their arrows at you which you may suppose seldom or ever do any execution. As the thing is to frighten these fellows as much as possible, I wish you would send one of the One Pounders with a pair of the new wheels as soon as possible. It will be necessary always to keep that gun in this Fort which I believe will be of more service than an extraordinary company of Sepoys. You need not order the Tumbril, as a few bullocks loaded with ammunition will do. The Surrang or Serjeant can make up cartridges for a hundred Ball and about fifty round of Grape, with two barrels of Country Powder to fire the morning and evening gun.

Gun Sam the Tussildar, is, I believe, much to blame. Rooke was very right in confining him as he sent a great quantity of rice and things out of the Fort without Mr Rooke's approbation. I have ordered him to give me an account of the things he sold and shall make him refund the Money.

Nemoo Doll, who you order to be declared Rajah, was taken prisoner at Tillabunny by Mr Rooke the night he went after the Rajah. He seems to be a good sort of man, his appearance is very much in his favour. I have not put your order into execution regarding him, as I fear it will be the means of preventing the Zimmindars who are with the old Rajah from coming in. Should they pay no attention to my Purwannah, I will appoint the Rajah agreeable to your order immediately. As he is very poor, not having even Clothes to cover him, I have ordered the Chowdry to supply him with everything he wants. I hope it will meet with your approbation which I flatter myself with obtaining for everything I do here.

I am (etc),

CHAS MORGAN

You must excuse the blunders I have made in this letter, for it is so long that I have not patience to examine it. Rooke's and my Comps wait on you and the Gentlemen of your factory.

CHAS. MORGAN.

To RICHARD BECHER, ESQ, ,
Collector General

MIDNAPORE,
the 9th July, 1768

SIR,

Inclosed I transmit you the Midnapore Treasury Account for the month of June, with two bills of Exchange amounting to Current Rupees 61,500

I shall be obliged to you if you will hasten back the Hon'ble Company's Mutwas belonging to this Factory They were sent last month to Calcutta with an Invoice of Piece Goods and are not yet returned, and I shall have occasion for them soon for a Dispatch of Treasure

Some very horrid murders have lately been committed here The perpetrators are now in prison The Facts have been fully proved upon them and are confessed by themselves What would you have me do with them? I would wish to hang them for the sake of example, but do not think it proper to proceed to that extremity without your approbation

I am, etc ,
 [G. VANSITTART]

No 361.

To G VANSITTART

NARSINGUR
July the 9th, 1768

SIR,

To morrow morning I shall order Nunderam's Company with all the bullocks there is here to Midnapore The old Tassildar will leave this to-morrow evening Upon enquiring into his conduct here, I find he is a very great rascal, and deserves a very good flogging the particulars of his behaviour I will let you know when I come to Midnapore

You must not fail to send constant supply of provision I have not at present in the Fort more than will last me for ten days, and there is not the least prospect of being supplied by the country people

I wait with impatience to hear from the old Rajah and the Zemindar with him, for by their answers I must form my future conduct if they are violent I know what I have to do

I hope you will not fail to send the gun desired immediately, as I am sure it will be of the greatest service imaginable You need not fear the expence that will attend it for I will answer for it that it shall not cost (after its arrival in this Fort) five rupees a month Twenty sepoy's will be a sufficient guard for it from Midnapore here

What paddy Mr. Rooke found in the Fort I have desired Kirpassindoo to try of him, and the Rajah to pay him another time Let me know if you approve of it: if you don't, it shall be altered as you may direct.

Nimoo Doll says if he is chosen Rajah, he desires, that Kirpasindoo may be his Dewan: he certainly is the properest person as he knows more of the matter than any body else, and has more authority in the country.

I am (etc.)

CHAS. MORGAN.

Coackpara the place where you order'd the Jimmedar and ten sepoy's is not on the road which the Harcarrahs brought me here, and the pikes of that country have not yet—in with me, so that I have order'd the Jimmedar to Burcoolah, which is about the same distance from here as Coackpara and on the road.

I have sent to the Tassildar of Balrampore to supply me with provisions.

No. 362.

*Extract from Mr. Graham's Letter, dated
Burdwan, 9th July, 1768.*

I have received your favor of the 7th, but I do not think it would be practicable to effect a removal of the silk winders, admitting it could be done without prejudice to the Company's investment: at least, it is a point that I endeavor'd to accomplish when at Midnapore but without success, even tho' there was no silk investment at that time order'd on account of the Company. Now then that there is such a provision order'd for the Company as to afford all the winders we can possibly entertain full employment at home, they could hardly I imagine be prevailed upon to remove from their family habitations into another province. The mention of this subject leads me to observe, altho' perhaps I may be mistaken and therefore do it with diffidence, that a settlement of winders near the spot where the silk is produced does not essentially contribute to the improvement of the growth, altho' it will serve to prevent the enhancement of the prices. If this observation is just, Mr. Vansittart may prosecute his endeavors for enlarging the produce with equal advantage without winders, and send the silk in pod, as has always been the custom, to be wound off at Radnagore, etc., which is not near so great a distance, as much of the Cossimbazar silk is transported from, to be wound off within the walls of the Cossimbazar Factory. This point, however, may more properly claim our attention, if the Midnapore product should become of so much consideration as to be order'd to be invested for our Hon'ble Masters. At present I believe that is not the case, and all that I urge therefore is the aversion that the winders would have to remove into Midnapore and the full employment we have for them at home, altho' they could wind off more silk if brought to them at their natural places of residence.

A true extract.

F. HOLME, JUNR.,

Deputy Collector.

('82)

No. 363.

FORT WILLIAM,
11th July, 1768.
(Rec. 18th, 1768.)

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq.,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We direct in future when you have any occasion for Military stores at your Factory that you indent to the Board for them and not to the Military Store Keeper, as has hitherto been the custom, and that such indent be countersigned by you.

We are, etc.,

JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
RICHARD BECHER,
JAS ALEXANDER,
CHARLES FLOYER.

END EDWARD BABER,
Assist. Secy.

No. 364.

NARSINGUR,
July the 13th, 1768.

TO GEO. VANSITTART.

SIR,

With the Bearer hereof I have orderd to proceed to Midnapore. 60 Coolys, 50 Bullock men, 20 Bazar Fellows and six of the Munchey's Servants, ten is as many as the Company ought to allow such a chap as him, and that is the number he has left. —————

Ye-terday I heard from the Zimindars who are with the old Rajah ; they promise to be with me in two Days. If they break their word, I will appoint the new Rajah, and march after the old one without loss of time, although I believe it will be of little consequence as he is a great way from this place. I understand he is at Ronvee which is in the More Bunge Country. I wish you would order the Rajah to lay hold of him, for I fear I shall not be able as I shall have a very small force with me when I leave this Fort, for I shall be obliged to leave forty men here besides the sick, which amounts at present to two Jimmedars and thirty Sepoys. Rooke is recovering but very slowly.

I have been now here five days, and none of the Zimindars have been with me. I must confess I am at a loss to know what to do, as they don't assemble in a body, but keep in small parties in the jungles. While they continue to do this, there is nothing can be done with them, in the fighting way. I have therefore, wrote Letters to them which they don't think proper to Answer.

Jibbonroy the Zimmindar of Cockpara had the impudence to attack my Sepoys that are stationed at Burcoola a few nights ago By way of retaliation I order a Serjeant with a Company to march into his Country to endeavour to take him, but he was too quick for them, swam over the river, and left our men in the lurch He had before drove off all his Cattle to the More Bunge Country, as I am informed by two prisoners which were taken by the Serjeant's party

I wrote to the Dumparrah Zimmindar some days ago but have had no answer, and he has detained the person I sent with the letter By way of teaching him better manners I last night sent a Serjeant and a Company to bring him in, if possible, and if they miss of him, to bring as many Cattle as they can possibly lay hold off which I suppose will be none at all However, if they do I will take care that the Riots shall have them again, as soon as this mighty business is settled

I have sent out Parties to look for boats, but can find none, so that my passing the Subunreca will be very uncertain, as it will depend on the depth of the water —

If you don't send me a supply of Provisions very soon, I shall be obliged to leave this Fort with the greatest part of my sepoy, for I have only seven or eight days provision here, although I only allow one seere of rice to each man per day If I go after the Rajah, I must take provisions with me, for I understand there is none to be got on the Roil, it being through jungles all the way, so that my distress will not be relieved by that march —

Last night arrived here a man with a letter for Rooke He has been seven days in coming from Midnapore, which he might have done in three You may with safety settle regular Daucks as far as Alampore from which place the Sepoys will escort them here in two days with great ease This is the third Letter I have wrote you.

I am (etc)

C MORGAN

Rooke joins with me in desiring you will give our compliments to Mrs Van when you write and Com to Mr Pearce, etc, etc Pray tell the Doctor we are in want of cooling powders

CAPT MORGAN

No 365

NARSINGUR,

July the 14th, 1768

Sir,

This morning I received two letters from you, one of the 5th, the other of the 11th, together with a list of Officers who I very heartily wish as the Devil —

In your letter of the 5th you acquaint me that there are here 160 Coolys and 70 Bullocks which came here with Rooke besides 140 that you sent with Provisions The hundred and forty have been sent from here

three or four days ago, and yesterday I sent to Midnapore sixty Coolys and all the Bullocks which Rooke brought here, excepting forty which is absolutely necessary to carry the Ammunition and Lents I have only two Harcarrahs left so send your next letter by one I allow none for my Bazar for whenever I move from this place, I don't intend to carry any with me, at present I can't stir, nor do I know when I shall be able, as very heavy rains have fallen for these two days past, which must consequently swell the River very much. I can get no Borts, nor I have any Carpenters to make any, so that I see little prospect of my being able to follow the Rajah and as little of making the Zimmindars come in to-morrow I intend making Nemoo Doll Rajah to see what effect that will have on the Zimmindars of the Country The Pikes I have with me want very much to leave me, as this is the season for setting their rice, which they will lose if they remain much longer here — Yesterday returned the detachment I sent after the Damparah Zimmindar, they could not lay hold of him, but brought in about eighty head of Cattle and one prisoner The prisoner I have sent back with a Purwannah to Juggonot Pattry to tell him that as soon as he comes in to me, his Cattle shall be restored and not till then

I wrote you a letter on my first arrival here, to desire you would send me one of the one Pounders, which I think should always remain in this Fort I told you in a former letter it would be attended with no expence for the Company have too good a servant in me to make any unnecessary or false charges — If I am to remain here till the Country is settled it will be necessary to send me another Company for the number of Sick increase daily, if you send any let it be Gopey Sings as I have already twenty of his men

I have already told you nothing can be done this season of the year without the Zimmindars think proper to come in, which at present they don't seem at all inclined to do, so that my staying here is an useless expence It must be a great one for you must constantly send me supplies of Provisions At present I have very little in the Fort and if I don't receive some shortly from you, I shall be obliged to leave the Fort and march to Bulrampore or Jounpore, as they are the only places I can expect to find Provisions at.

I am Sir (etc)

O. MORGAN

I return you very many thanks for the arms, etc

CAPT MORGAN

No 366

MIDNAPORE

16th July, 1768

TO THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, ESQR

HON'BLE SIR,

Bovany Churn, a ruckeel who is with me from the Mohrbunge Raja has been giving me, as he says by his Master's command, a long history of

the intentions of the Morattas Such as I received it I transmit it to you It is possible there may not be a word of truth in it However the man assured me that he had advanced nothing but what he was absolutely certain of, and I have no particular reason to suspect his veracity He tells me that, in April last, his master Dummooder Bunge received a letter from Summajee Gunnays, the Nabob of Cuttack, to the following purpose ' That in case the chout was not paid, he should march in his army into Bengal after the rains, and ravage the whole country, that in the mean while he intended to quarter his troops in Gorpudda, which is between Jallesore and Ballasore, and that he (Dummoodar Bunge) must prepare Cantonments for them and be ready to join them in due time with his forces " To this Dummoodur Bunge replied that rice was at present very dear and scarce in his country, and that therefore, it was not advisable to quarter the troops in Gorpudda as they would not be able to find subsistence there " He received no answer to this, but in consequence of it Coonjur which is two or three days journey North of Cuttack has been fixed upon instead of Gorpudda for quartering the troops The Vackeel adds that the same Hircarris who brought Summajee Gunnay's letter for Dummoodars Bunge had others for the Patchaet Raja and most of the Zemindars on the Western borders of Bengal and Bahai, that Summajee Gunnay's army consists of about 12,000 Horse, 6000 Bercundasses and 1000 Men with firelocks, that about the same force under the command of Niloo Pundit will at the same time enter by the way of Ramgurr and Patchaet and proceed through Beerboom towards Moorshedabad

As Dummoodur Bunge holds the Zemindary of Nyabason* etc, under Midnapore and is at present somewhat in arrears, I have written to him to demand the immediate payment of his balance The Vackeel says that in consequence of this, his uncle Bulbudder Bunge will himself repair to Midnapore and explain to me any further particulars that I may have to enquire, that his Master is desirous of shaking off the yoke of the Morattas and becoming a dependent of the English, and that his country is so advantageously situated that, with a very little assistance from us, he would at any time be able to prevent the Morattas from entering into Bengal from the Southward I have told him that I shall be glad to see Bulbudder Bunge, that he must bring with him Summajee Gunnay's original letter and that I will transmit his representation to you

I am, etc,

[G. VANSITTART]

No 367

TO G VANSITTART

FROM RICHARD BECHER,

Collector-General

CALCUTTA

15th July, 1768

SIR,

I have been favor'd with your letters of the 23rd ult^o and 9th instant with contracts for the cultivation of mulberry trees and a statement

of lands mentioned in the former , and your Treasury account for June with bills of exchange amounting to Current Rupees 61,500, enclosed in the latter

I am glad to find that the encouragement which you have given for cultivation of the waste lands in the Province under your charge has been hitherto successful, I could also wish that the remainder might be disposed of in like manner or in Talucks without stipulating for the cultivating raw silk as may appear to you most eligible I mention the latter in consequence of applications which have been made to me, but as it will be impracticable for these people, at so remote a distance, to engage for the propagation of mulberry trees, I therefore leave it to you to determine how far the consideration of their... ..may be an inducement to the superfluous ryotts of these districts to settle in those of Midnapore, and as the want of inhabitants appears to be the principal obstacle to your improvement

[Letter in fragments Gives Vansittart power of discretion to encourage cultivation of mulberry trees and to grant talukderas with no stipulations The death sentence is necessary in the case of the murderers now apprehended]

No 368

NARSINGUR,
The 16th July, 1768
(Recd 19th do)

SIR,

Last night I had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 12th Instant, I am very happy that you approve of the measures I had then taken, and wish with all my heart they had taken the desired effect, but find there is no such thing as dealing with these people by fair means There is none of them yet come in nor have they answered my Parwannahs in writing The people who I sent with them are returned The first that came back told me the Zimindar and Sirdars promised to be at Mahullea the 11th, the next that returned told me they would not come in, and were determined to support Juggonaut Doll against the company

• Kirpasindoo brought me two men yesterday, and said they were come from his Brother, who, he said, wanted my order to lay hold of Juggonaut Doll who was collecting a great force, to come and fight me but they could not tell where the force or the Rajah was such are the unconnected lies they come and continually tell me Kirpasindoo is in fear for his Brother's Country and wants me to march that way, which is impossible for me to do as I have very little provisions in the Fort and have no boat to cross the River

You may imagine I am greatly enraged at being put off with the expectation of the Zimindar's coming in I should not have suffered myself to have been taken in, at this rate but that I knew the consequence of making Nemoo Doll Rajah would be that the Company could not possibly get any money from the country for three or four months This Kirpasindoo told me on my arrival here, and advised me to endeavour first of all to persuade Juggonaut Doll to come in, as all the principal people would favour his cause

Finding all I have hitherto done of no effect, I have this day appointed Nemoo Doll Rajah and Kirpasindoo his Dewan. I have again wrote to the head people of the different Purgunnahs to acquaint them with what I have done and to order them in immediately, threatening such as disobey my order. Kirpasindoo shuffled a good deal this morning before he would accept of a turband which is customary to give the Dewan. I was obliged to order him in a severe tone to take it, before he would consent. The reason of my insisting upon it was that this new Rajah will have no influence without him as he has not so much as a Village of his own. As your servants did not send clothes for the Rajah, I was obliged to buy the best I could for him here. I gave him a Horse because he was very desirous of it and told me Mr Fergusson had given Juggonant Doll one. The horse is not of any great value—I believe a hundred rupees or a little more will be the purchase. After I had given your Sunnud to the Rajah, and dismissed him, he mounted his horse and rode all through the Village with the Tom Toms beating before him in a prodigious grand manner, and now we have got a new Rajah. John Compray must supply him with money and victuals for he has not the least of either. You must not fail to send me constant supplies of Provisions for the Country people don't seem inclined in the least to do any such thing, they are all (of this side the River) kept in augh by Juggonant Patta and Gibbonroy, who take so much care of themselves that it appears a joke to me to think of catching them, and, to tell you my real sentiments of the affairs of this country, at present, I think it will be a more difficult job to settle it than it was at first to conquer it for this plain reason—the disaffected have now a young man to head them who never stays long in any particular place. Consequently it will be more difficult to lay hold of him than it was to catch the old Rajah, who was fool enough to stay in this fort till Fergusson came here.

July the 17th—I wrote the foregoing pages the 16th in the Morning. In the Evening I received a letter from Juggonant Doll, who acknowledges the receipt of my Parwannah and tells me all the Sirdars of the Country would have come in to me the 12th instant, but was persuaded to do otherwise by Juggonant Patta. That Rascal sent me yesterday evening a Vach-ele to tell me he was very desirous of being friends with me, and would send me his Brother, with as many pikes as I pleased to fight for me, if I would but be his friend and send him some cattle. I wrote him for answer that I was very much his friend and sent him what he wanted with the Letter, but that I did not desire any of his pikes as I had as many Depoys as I wanted, but should be very glad to see him and whenever I had that pleasure I would return him the cattle I had taken from his country. The People who brought me Juggonant Doll's letter told me that if I gave a favourable answer to that letter that the Sirdars of the country would be in with me in four days. So I wrote the most favourable answer I possible could, but at the same time informing him that I had made Nemoo Doll Rajah, which he could not be surprised at as he left my Parwannah so long unanswered. I advised him by all means to come in to me, immediately, and I would endeavour to persuade you to make him Rajah again, as Nemoo Doll would not be able to pay the Company's money. I told him if he intended to come in at all to be very expeditious, as I should be obliged in a few days to send Parwannahs to the Sirdars and People of the country to order them to obey the new Rajah, and in short I used every argument I could to intice him in, because I am sure it will be more for the Company's interest to continue him Rajah. A few villages will I suppose satisfy Nemoo

Doll, for he is as poor as a Church Mouse, that is to say if my argument persuades the other man to come in which I much doubt off

When I wrote my first letter to you, I was not well enough acquainted with this business to know the difference between Sirdars and Zimmedars. When I mentioned the Zimmedars that were with the Rajah I ment the Sirdars—the same of the Chacolea man

When I gave the Pikes that are with me Victuals I did not give them money, the reason of my mentioning it to you was that I was obliged to supply them from the Buzar, and should consequently want a supply of Provisions the sooner. At present I have not above four or five days at the most, and it is not possible to get any from the Country People.

Rooke found nothing in the Fort but a Quantity of Paddy and a few Muns of Rice which shall be sold and brought to the Company's account. I inclose you the old Tussildars account. The Money I made him refund was Rs 59 which the present Tussildar has in his possession. He received it on the Company's Account. By this time you must be pretty well tyred with the length of my letter. I am greatly so, for I have been troubled with a headache this two days, so you must give me leave to subscribe myself your, (etc)

C MORGAN

Rooke joins me in Compliments to you and the Gentlemen at Midnapore

For God's sake send me a supply of fowls by the return of the Ducks for I have nothing to eat and what Arack Banks sent me let me have for the Sergeants as soon as possible

No 369

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQR,
Collector-General.

MIDNAPORE
19th July, 1768

SIR,

*I have been favoured with your letter of the 15th. Mr Graham seems to have understood that I want a considerable emigration of Winders from the Burdwan districts to Midnapore, where as all I desired was three or four families in order to make a beginning, as I should afterwards be able I believe to find numbers of people disposed to learn. However I have now hopes of procuring a few from the Pergunnas of Cossijura, Cootubpore and Narrajole in this province. They have not the reputation indeed of working so well as the Burdwan or Culcutta winders but of this I shall be a better judge hereafter. If they do they will fully answer my purpose, and I shall have no occasion to search for any from other districts. It is certain that the Midnapore Silk might be sent to Radnagore etc to be wound, but it might be expected to prosper better, if the whole business was carried on within this province, under the immediate inspections of the Resident and at the same time it would afford an additional and, I think, a laudable satisfaction to him.

The cultivation of Raw silk being particularly beneficial to the Hon'ble Company, and the quantity of land required for it being very trifling, these considerations justify our granting Taalucks for that purpose, but otherwise I think one would not choose to deprive the Zemindars of any part of their patrimonial estates, so long as they themselves seem disposed to improve them as much as in their power. I would propose, therefore, instead of Taalucks, to grant to Gocul Gosaul etc. Ijaras for 10 or 12, or, if you think proper, even a longer term of years, this will suffice to reward them for their trouble and at the same time it will not be an infringement of the Zemindar's Hereditary rights.

Whilst silver remains so scarce in Calcutta, I shall be careful to remit all the revenue in specie but otherwise Bills seem most for the Company's Interest, as I observe by the account of remittances you sent me that the receipts turn out 2 or 3 Per Cent less than the Invoices. The particulars are as follows :—

Invoice 1st Co. Rs.	...	...	1,11,840-1-3 Credited in Calcutta		
				1,08,196	13 9
Invoice the 2nd	...	...	1,11,774-1-6 Ditto ...	1,09,510	4 6
Invoice the 3rd	...	...	56,110-3-6 Ditto ...	54,675	5 6
				<hr/>	
				2,72,382	7 9

The Mutwas have been arrived some days at Gongacolly, but are not yet come up to Midnapore. .

I am Sir,
[G. VANSITTART.]

—
No. 370.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQR.,
Collector-General.

MIDNAPORE:
19th July, 1768.

DEAR SIR,

When I was in Calcutta I gave you some account of Jugul Charn, the man who laid before the Board the offers for such a wonderful increase in Midnapore Perganna. He and his associates have since had the impudence to publish with so much assurance that he has your promise of being appointed to the Zemindary of Midnapore, that many of the inhabitants believe him; some have even sent him presents to procure his future favour, and people's minds remain in that fluctuating state which the Prospect of an approaching charge occasions and which is very incompatible with the good of the country. I wish, therefore, you would cause him to be turned out of Calcutta. He is a man who is by no means entitled to our protection or favour. He was Bucksby to the Rannies Povany and Sirromunny whom he plundered and imprisoned two or three years before this province was ceded to the Company and maintained a stout war against the then Fougadar. He joined the Morattoes in their attack upon Mr. Johnstone, and was by him expelled the Country. His pretensions to the Zemindary were then laid by him before the Committee of Lands and were judged to be groundless, and he has since repeatedly applied and repeatedly been discountenanced by

the several Residents at Midnapore as well as by Mr. Verelst when he was Supervisor.

I should be glad if you would likewise order back to Midnapore, Kisshun Churn Baira, the man whose complaints we enquired into together whilst I was at Calcutta. His remaining so long in Calcutta (although in contradiction to your orders) tends much to the diminution of my authority, and may be the means of your being troubled with a number of groundless complaints. All those against whom I decide any cause would certainly repair to Calcutta, if they had hopes of being there Supported, and, as I am always careful to examine strictly and decide with impartiality to the best of my judgement, I flatter myself that our Sentiments, when compared, would seldom disagree.

Mrs. Becher I hope is well. I beg my compliments to her and am, etc.,

[G. VANSITTART.]

No. 371.

CALCUTTA.
19th July, 1768.
(Recd. 20th do.)

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ.

SIR,

Having spoken to the President concerning the murders mentioned in your letter of the 9th instant, he thinks an application to the Board unnecessary, and that the perpetrators ought to be tried in the Phousdar's Court at Midnapore, when, if the facts are proved, they must be condemned to die. In which case I desire you will order their execution to be in such a manner as may be most likely to deter others in future.

I am etc.,

RICHD. BECHER,
Collector General.

Mr. & Mrs. Becher most sincerely congratulate Mr. Vansittart on the birth of a son, and the favourable way Mrs. Vansittart is in.

No. 372.

MIDNAPORE,
The 28th July, 1768.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQ.,
Collector-General.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 19th, and shall act agreeable to your Directions :—

Inclosed I have the pleasure to send you an invoice of a Lack of Treasure Sicca weight which was this day dispatched to Calcutta under charge of a Havildar and 10 Seapoys.

Jugganaut Doll, the Zemindar of Gutseela, having obstinately persisted in his disobedience, I have been obliged to appoint his elder Brother Nimoodoll to the Zemindary in his room, and the Pergunna is not yet entirely settled. Lient Rook was seized with a severe fever upon his arrival there, which laid me under the necessity of ordering Captain Morgan to the Command of the detachment

I am &c,
[G VANSITTART]

No. 373

NARSINGUR,
22nd July, 1768

To G. VANSITTART.

SIR,

Your's of the 16th instant I received in due time, should have replied to it sooner, but was in expectation of giving you a more satisfactory account of Jugganaut Doll than I am at present able to do, as he continues to play me off with letters without speaking a word of coming in himself, however he says he will send his Brother immediately.

In a letter I received from the Sirdars which are with Juggonaut Doll they seem'd desirous that Incho Chulham & Nederam should go to Mohullea to swear them, and they promised to come in with the Jimmedar and Buxsey, and to bring Juggonaut Doll along with them I immediately complied with their request, but upon the Jimmedars arrival at Mohullea there was nobody to be found After remaining there a day two Sirdars of Pikes came to them, and told them they would go and fetch the Rajah and bring him, or his answer in two days This account I received from Nederam last night, in answer to which I told Nederam to stay there three days, and to use every means in his power to bring Juggonaut Doll back with them, but if he refused, to give my Parwannah (declaring Nemoo Doll Rajah) to the Sirdars and to come to me as soon as possible

The detachment which I sent to the Rumpartah fellow's Country has had a very good effect Three days ago he sent here his Brother with a parcel of Pikes, and begs I will excuse his coming, as he is very old and blind I keep his Brother with me till every thing is settled, till which time I intend to keep his cattle which is what makes him so submissive

Now to answer your letter of the 16th The reason of your only receiving sixty Bullocks was that some went to Balrampore and some to Joanpore, to fetch provisions from those places—Serjeant Flint has been arrived here these four days The provisions sent under his charge arrived excepting one Bullock load of Rice which was left at Cuccolea The Bullock not being able to bring it The list of things which was inclosed in your letter has been delivered to Hurrychun

Your orders concerning the Paddy which was found in the Fort shall be complied with I wonder you should send me a two Pound as the only use I had for a gun was to let it remain in this Fort when I marched from here I believe I told you so in my former letters or at least I intended it, the only

difference it will make, will be my keeping the Coolys here which you sent with it, as I suppose you will not chuse the Two Pounder should always remain here—I am very glad you think me so careful a servant, you certainly shall never have any reason to think me otherwise, for while I serve old John it shall be with honesty, altho' I am very angry with the old Gentleman for sending out such a string of Field Officers

If the Rajah will not come in, Sitaram Cawn's Horse may be of service in catching him. However I hope he will come in by fair means, for as soon as ever I go in pursuit of him the Country people will be so much frightened that it will be a long time before they will be so quiet as they are at present. There is now not the least disturbance in any part of the Country and you need no longer send duplicates of your letters as I receive them quite regular. Should Juggonaut Doll come in, what am I to do with him. I can't keep him prisoner for I have given him the most solemn promises that I would not in hopes that that would persuade him to come to me. The best thing that can be done for the Company will be to make him Rajah again, for, as I told you before, not a Rupee will you get for many Months if Nemoo Doll is continued. If you don't chuse to be concerned, I can easily find an excuse for making Juggonaut Doll again, but you are to do as you think proper, and I have only to obey your orders—

I shall wait here to receive an answer to my letter of the 16th and 17th, and shall form my conduct accordingly. I shall be glad when the boats arrive from Joanpore as I shall then be able to cross the River—

Mr Short's Chitt of the 19th together with your little supply I have just recd and return you many thanks

I am (etc ,)

C. MORGAN.

* I have received the piece of—
Rooke still continues to be but poorly
has slight returns of his fever every
now and then

CAPT. MORGAN.

* Dated 22nd and 24th July, 1768.

No 374.

TO G VANSITTART

NARSINGUR:

July the 25th, 1768.

SIR,

Yesterday evening Nideram and my Jimmedar returned from Juggernaut Doll who they saw but could not persuade to come in. He has sent me a vachele and a young man who he calls his brother, but says he is absolutely afraid to come in himself, so that I have nothing to do now, but confirm Nimoo Doll in the Zimindary, and for that purpose shall this day send off perwannahs by two riots who are come here from the Huldypoker Sirdar who is with Juggonaut Doll as is almost all the sirdars of the country.

I am sorry to find by your letter that I can get no boats from Jounpore As I find it impossible to procure any here, and the river still continues impassible, so that I can do nothing but write purwannahs, I shall remain here to see what effect they will have on the Sirdars, and will act accordingly Should the majority of them favour Juggonant Doll, it will be the work of many months to bring them in, as the country on the otherside of the river is very extensive and hilly, and it is impossible to subsist men there when the people of the country are your enemies, without I carry my own bazars but as upon these occasions I don't take things for granted, I will march there as soon as I can get across the river I carry four or five days provisions with me, and it may turn out better than it appears likely to do

I have been favor'd with your letter of the 20th the former part of this letter is a sufficient answer to it The Dumparrah fellow is sufficiently inclined to peace, or at least while I detain his cattle The Conchpara fellow has taken care of his people and cattle for he has carried them all over the river

I have just sent back the Vachele and the old Rajah's brother to tell him that Nimoo Doll is now publicly declared Rajah, and that if he, Juggernaut Doll does not pay what money is due to the Company he will be declared their enemy, and I shall endeavour to catch him but that if he pays what is due he will be entirely his own master to go where he pleases

Mr Rooke joins me in the most sincere congratulations on the birth of your son as well as on Mrs Vans being out of danger, and we earnestly wish her steady recovery Don't send me any more cows as I have lately had a great supply from Bulrampore A few sheep will be very acceptable as will some sugar candy I beg your pardon for being so troublesome to you, but as you know necessity has no law I wish to God this business was over, for I am really tired of doing nothing, and my poor sepoy's fall sick continually. I have now above sixty men ill of fever one of my lascars died a day or two ago, and Mr Flint is very ill be so good as to send me a large quantity of ginger, as I find tea made out of it to be very good for the sick men

I am, etc,
C MORGAN

Come to my old friend Fleury, the Doctor Short

No 375

TO MR GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM
28th July, 1768
(Recd 3rd August)

SIR,

Enclosed we transmit you Copy of the 59th Paragraph of the Hon'ble Company's commands under date the 12th November 1767, and direct that you will draw out an account of the nett charges of your factory according

to the form therein prescribed from the 12th August to the 31st of this month and forward the same to the Presidency with all possible dispatch.

We are, etc ,

H. VERÉLST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
RICHD. BECHFR,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FLOYER.

Edw.

EDWD. BABER,
Secretary

ENCLOSURE.

Extract from the Company's General Letter, the 20th November, 1767.

Para. 59. As the Charges of your Presidency and Subordinates may be considered as a deduction from the amount of the Revenues in order to show the Nett income or Profit thereof, we likewise direct that you do transmit at times a particular account of these several charges dijested under the distinct heads of Civil, Military and Marine for the same period as that of your Revenue, distinguishing each month: which account we need not observe to you must be properly authenticated. We must here observe that to the Military charges we mean that the whole of such expence shall appear in this account, but it will be necessary that you should distinguish the several Brigades and Independent Battalions of Sepoys that we may deduct the whole or such part only as you have thought proper to carry to the Account of Dewanee and Sircary Revenues.

A true extract.

(Signed) EDWD. BABER,
Secretary.

A true copy.

F. HOLME, JUNR.,
Deputy Collector.

No. 376. .

TO G. VANSITTART.

NARSINGUR :

July the 30th, 1768.

SIR,

Accompanying this letter I transmit you a Return of the five Companies on Command in the Western Jungles.—

Your favour of the 24th instant I received in due time in answer to which I must inform you every means I could suggest was used to persuade Juggonant Doll to come in, but it was to no purpose, as I told you in my last letter. I have been waiting these three days in hopes of having an answer from the Sirdars that are with him, as yet they have been silent.

Had Rooke been well enough to travel I should have sent him to Midnapore on my first arrival. At present he is pretty well and intends

leaving this in a few days. I am at present repairing an old Canon which has been lying in a Tank near this Fort for God knows how long. I shall be able to cross my people over the river in it in two or three days, when you may be assured I will lose no time in pursuing Jaggonaut Doll. The consequence of it will be, that all the people of the Country will run to the Devil, and the Country cant possibly be settled for many months, but what can I do with the Rascall when they neither come in, nor answer my Purwaunahs.

The Dumparrah Sirdar came to me yesterday, and remains in the Village. I have returned him all his Cows and Bullocks, and shall take in pay thirty or forty his Pikes as all Kirposindoo's have run away, and so has all the rest excepting Joy Bahader's, who is a very fine old Fellow and I allow him ten rupees P. month. This morning I received your chitt of the 26 together with the Biscuit and Arrack for which I return you many thanks. Don't send me any more Biscuit as I have got a vast deal.—Rooke joins me in Comps. to you and Mrs. Van, and the Gentlemen at Midnapore.

I am, etc.,

CHAS. MORGAN.

The Bullocks that came with Gopy Sing's Company were all sent away from here two days ago, and all the sick that were able to ride the Bullocks went with them.

No. 377.

To G. VANSITTART.

CAMP AT SUNNEGURRIA ON THE WESTERN
BANKS OF THE SUDRONECA:*

August the 2nd, 1768.

SIR,

Yesterday I had the honour of receiving your's dated the 28th of last month, by which I am glad to find you are of the same opinion of my going to the Haldypooker Country, which I hope to reach in three or four days. I began to cross the river yesterday morning, with one company and the luggage. In the evening I marched from Narsingur with part of three companies, leaving in the Fort two jimmiedars and thirty sepoy's with about forty sick. I have left the gun there and all my ammunition excepting eight barrels. I had only one boat to cross the river with, and she leaked confoundedly; so you may imagine what a disagreeable piece of business it was. My cavalry who join'd me yesterday is not yet got over: they seem to be a shocking set of dogs.

I have no certain intelligence where the Rajah is. As soon as I have I shall endeavour to surround him, although I think it will be impossible.

Nideram Buxey did not like to accompany me; so I left him at Narsingur to take care of the Damparrah Sirdar.

I am in excellent spirits

(etc.)

Coms. to all the Gentlemen.

CHAS. MORGAN.

No. 378.

CALCUTTA,
3rd August, 1768.

To G VANSITTART, Esq

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 15th July I am obliged to you for your intelligence concerning the designs of the Morattoes, and desire you will give further information from Mohriunge Raja A strict eye should likewise be kept over the actions of the Morattoes, for tho' I have great reason to believe that they will not venture to break with us at this time particularly, yet prudence demands our attention towards their motions.

I am (etc),
H VERELST

P.S—Major Kindersley, the Commandant of Artillery, is the person you must apply to for the cloathing of the *Lascars*—H V.

No 379.

CAMP AT HULDYPOCKER
August the 6th, 1768.

SIR,

I have the pleasure to inform you of my arrival here this 4th Instant where I found everything quiet Most of the People remained in the Villages, but the Sirdars of the Village and Dewly were gone to Cojng that they might come with Kirpasindoo's Brother to see me Yesterday evening Burrahnak arrived here with the above-mentioned Sirdars and a great number of Pike Sirdars, all of whom we gave beetle to, and made them go through the usual forms of swearing to obey the new Rajah

I find that Juggonant Doll is with the Baman Hatty* Zimindar, that District belongs to the More Bunje Ryah who sent a Vakil to Burrahnak two days ago with the enclosed letter desiring him to leave the English and come to him as soon as possible, and threatening him, if he disobeyed

I have sent to the Baman Hatty Zimindar to inform him I shall very soon march into his Districts, and that, if he does not deliver Juggonant Doll into my hands, I will plunder and destroy his whole Country I don't know if it will be right in me to do so, as it belongs to the Morattoes, and indeed it appears a joke to me to follow Juggonant Doll, as it will be impossible to catch him and as he has nobody with him but five Sirdars of Pikes, who are of no kind of consequence and I shall appoint others in their room immediately If I should lay hold of any of the old ones, it will be necessary to hang them by way of example to others

Here is a large extent of country surround on all sides by hills It is the most beautiful I have seen since my arrival in India, and seems to be very plentiful, altho' I can't say much for the civility of the People, as I have not been able to get a single thing for my Sepoys since my arrival All I can say to them will not make them bring things to the Bazar to sell

Fortunately for me Ferguson has got a Sirdar at Dewly to sell a quantity of rice, which he brought up last year. I was obliged this morning to send the few Bullocks I brought with me there to buy rice and other things for my men.

I have desired Borrahnik to keep the More Binge Vachiel till I see him. I shall move that way in a day or two in order to get a better place to encamp my men in. At present I am in a bog and my men begin to fall sick, which I can very ill afford as I have not two hundred with me.

For God's sake send me a strong supply of Madeira, Brandy, and Butter. Send them to Narsingur, and I can get them sent by small quantities to me by the Dracks, which I have settled at Mohullea, Calcuttore, and this place. The two former articles I stand in much need of, as this is the shockingest weather I ever saw in my life.

Desiring you will be kind enough to present my compliments to the Gentlemen at Midnapore, I subscribe myself, etc

CHAS MORGAN

When I return to Midnapore, it will be necessary, I believe, to leave a Subadar and forty men here, the remainder of the Company and the gun will be sufficient at Narsin Gur. When I have been here a little longer, I shall be able to judge what will be best to do. C M

I had like to have forgot to reply to the last paragraph of your letter of the 28th, you desire to know if there is any occasion for the Havildar and Sepoys remaining at Jambunea. I should imagine they had better stay till my return to Narsin Gur, as Mr Jibbunroy will be there very soon. I think your Lunnadar at Balrampur a very sacy fellow for making complaints to you of my Havildar without letting me know anything of the matter. You might easily have supposed my men were in better order than to do anything without my directions. I imagine the Havildar's crime is endeavouring to catch some Sirdars who had plundered and cut off the head of one of the Moodys that was going to Midnapore from Narsin Gur. The man's wife came to complain to me of the people who had taken her husband's effects, in consequence of which I ordered the Havildar at Jambunea to lay hold of them, if they did not deliver the things to the woman immediately. I suppose this is what has occasioned the complaint.

I am, etc,
C MORGAN

No 380

To G. VANSITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA
The 6th August, 1768
(Recd 7th do)

[The ink of this letter has become very faint, and the task of deciphering it has been rendered impossible by some one who has pasted a piece of coar o paper across the centre of the first page to keep the two halves together. Acknowledges receipt of letter of 27th ult, treasure etc. Approves warmly of scheme for culture of raw silk, and for settling,

Calcutta folk as talukdars on Midnapur lands, where men of character are needed for cultivation of the lands. If the Zemindars should desire to improve the barren lands they should, however, have a preference "To enable me to comply with the orders of the Hon'ble Board transmitted to me in their letter of the 20th ult, I think it necessary to send you a copy of it, and of the 5—th Paragraph and Extract therein referred to. Should it be practicable, I would be glad to have your Accounts of Charges and Collections conformably to the above Orders, before the expiration of this month."

I am, etc.,

RICH BECHER,

[*Collector-General*]

No 381.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQ.,
Collector-General

FORT WILLIAM :
20th July, 1768

SIR,

I am directed by the Hon'ble the President and Council to acquaint you that they desire you will draw out and lay before the Board as soon as possible an Account of the Nett Charges incurred in your office from the 12th August, 1765 to the 31st instant and for your information in what manner the Account is to be digested I have the honour to enclose you a copy of the 59th Paragraph of the Hon'ble Company's General Letter of the 20th November, 1767.

I am further directed to desire you will make out a statement of the Revenues under your Collection from this period agreeably to the form prescribed by the Company in the Extract I herewith enclose from the same Letter, for making out a statement of the Sircarry Revenues

I am, etc.,

(Signed) EDWD BABER,

Secretary

A true copy

F HOLME, JUNR.,

D C

ENCLOSURE

*Extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter
dated the 21st November, 1767*

Para 92 For the purpose we direct that the Salt Trade be laid open to the natives in general under the following regulations, viz., that all the collaries or salt pans within the Company's jurisdiction in the Calcutta pergunnahs and Company's lands in the Province of Burdwan, Midnapore, and Chittagong be put up to public sale, at their respective capitals, and sold to the best bidder, five Collaries in each lot, and that no person be

allowed to take more than thirty lots which we judge will enable him to make about forty-five or fifty thousand Bazar maunds of salt in this year, and that two months notice will be given all about the country before the sale begins and all Europeans are hereby expressly prohibited from being bidders at such sales or holding any of the salt works in their hands directly or indirectly.

A true extract

EDWD BABER,

Secretary

A true copy

F HOLME, JUNR,

D C

No 382

CAMP AT HULDYPOCKER,

August the 8th, 1768

(Recd 11th do)

DEAR SIR,

I beg your pardon for forgetting to send you in my last letter the one I mentioned to have received from Kirpasindo which was written by the Mourebungo Rajah to his Brother. If possible I will not forget to inclose it in this together with one from the Morebungo Rajah's Dewan, I believe to the same person or the former.

My men fall sick daily, so that when I move from this place, I shall be obliged to leave a great many behind. I shall stay here some time longer as the people seem to be very sacey the Sirdars of this and Daly Pargunnah are remarkably so. I have given orders to the poor Rajah to seize all the effects of the Sirdars which are gone with Juggernaut Doll. It will help to support him at present he is wretchedly poor. I think you should send him a present of some pieces of cloth and some silks for he cuts a most woful figure for a Rajah.

I don't think it worth while following the old Rajah leaving the force here which I mentioned in my last letter will prevent his returning, and if the Baman hatty Zemindar persists in supporting I may take a more favourable season of the year to go and give him and the Morebungo Rajah a trimming. At present I have too small a number of men to enter the Morebungo Country as so long a march as I must necessarily take if I follow Juggernaut Doll will destroy half the men I have, and you know I have no convenience for carrying the sick which I much wanted on my march here. This is my opinion at present it may be altered when my spies come in from Baman Hatty.

When you write to Mrs Van, don't forget my compliments, and receive congratulations on the birth of her son.

I am, etc.,

CHAS MORGAN

Send me some writing paper by the first opportunity as I have none left.

No. 383.

HULDYPOCKER,

*August the 11th, 1768,**(Recd. 17th do.)*

SIR,

Your's acquainting me with the Dispatch of the Hundred Maunds of Rice I received yesterday. There will be no occasion of any further supplies, as, while I stay on this side the River, the Country will abundantly furnish me with everything I can want, and when I return to Narsingur the last supply you have sent will be sufficient for the short time it will be necessary for my remaining there. Let me know if I am to attack the Morattoes or not, though must confess I am little able, for yesterday I divided my men, an equal number to each company as there were more sick of some companies than others. They consist now of 38 men each fit for duty: and this number is decreasing daily by sickness. Another disagreeable circumstance attends my marching to Baman Hutt, which is the small quantity of provisions I can carry with me, and I shall hardly find any there.

I have a great number of sick here, two Subadars, two Jemmidars, and what is worse than all the rest, Mr. Impo Chillam has been very bad ever since my arrival. I am obliged to turn doctor myself, and I give Turlington's drops for all kinds of disorders.

Some day ago I sent for Naderam Buxey, who I left at Nursin Gur. He wrote me back word he had no bearers and the road was too dirty for him to walk, so that I shall order the Havildar, who escorted the 200 maunds of rice to take him back to Midnapore, for I don't know any use he is of to me. While I stayed at Narsin Gur he behaved very well.

Many thanks for your great supply of Wine, Sugar Candy, etc. It came in very good time, and I am infinitely obliged to you.

1 am, etc.,

O. MORGAN.

Compliments to old Peiaroy, etc., etc.

No. 384.

To GEO. VANSITTART, ESQ.

CAMP AT HULDYPOCKER,

*August 17th, 1768.**(Recd. 24th do.)*

SIR,

I have wrote you since my arrival here three letters besides this, without receiving an answer to either of them. This day I received some paper, which I suppose you sent me, but no letter or chitt accompanied.

I have now the pleasure to acquaint you that all the Sirdars have been with me, the Ballance of the Companies account will be settled in a day or two when I shall return to Narsingur, and settle what business there is there to do. When I go from here I will leave Subadar Shaick Adam with forty men: the rest of his Company will be a sufficient garrison for Nursin Gur. I think it absolutely necessary that a Subadar and forty men

should remain here to prevent the return of Juggernaut Doll. Should it not meet with your approbation, it will be only ordering them to Nursin Gur where you formerly proposed stationing Shaik Adam's Company.

As soon as I have finished the Company's Business at Narsin Gur, I suppose I may return to Midnapore. However, I will wait at Nursingur a few days for your orders. I must not stay long as we shall be short of provisions.

I understood from Kirpasindo that Fergusson, when he was at Nursin Gur, laid a tax on the people of the Purgunnahs to pay him yearly an annah on every rupee they paid to the Rajah. I have ordered the money arising from this tax to be brought to the Companies account for the present and not to be levied for the future. I shall order Naderam Baxe to make a particular inquiry into this affair, as my account comes from bad interpreters. I acquaint you with it because it is my duty not to conceal anything that may prove to the detriment of the Company.

In my last I told you I intended ordering Naderam to Midnapore because he did not chose to travel in bad roads. I accordingly sent him orders for that purpose, but at the same time gave him his choice either to come here or return to Midnapore. He thought proper to chose the former and arrived here yesterday.

I have found out Govinderam, the old Dewan, to be a very great scoundrel, no less than holding correspondence with Juggernaut Doll and the Baman Hatty Zemindar without my knowledge. The letters..... received from them have been found upon him.....ordered him to be tried. If he is guilty, I shall punish him as a spie.

I am, etc.,

C. MORGAN.

I must beg the favor of you to acquaint Rooke that I have recd. the Sepoys' pay.

No. 385.

Extracts from 106th Paragraph of the Hon'ble Company's General Letter dated 20th November, 1767.

That you draw out an annual Account of the sums received from the Dewannee deducting thereout the stipulated Payments to the King and the allowances to the Nabob's Ministers also of the Revenues of the Provinces of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong, and the Calcutta Purgunnahs from which is to be deducted Lord Clive's Jaghire and the ordinary Charges of Collection.

A true extract.

(Signed) EDWD. BABER,

Secy.

A true copy.

F. HOLME JUNR.,

D. C.

No 386.

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq

MIDNAPORE,
8th August, 1768

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 6th My view in wishing the Calcutta people would content themselves with Ijaras instead of Talucks was in order to avoid the necessity of depriving the Zemindars of their patrimonial Estates, but if Ijaras will not be a sufficient Inducement to them to undertake the Cultivation of the Waste Lands, we have no other alternative but either to grant them Talucks or give up our scheme of Improvement I will endeavour to settle the matter on the best footing possible when Gocoul Gosaul's Gomastah arrives There is one pergunna dependent upon Midnapore upon which it would not cost me much regret to oblige the Zemindar to sell, as he is totally unable to cultivate it himself, is often guilty of oppressing his Ryots Bahaderpore is this Pergunna I mean It is a pretty large district, and is at present almost entirely over run with underwood and long grass The bringing of a good number of Ryots from Calcutta appears to be an essential article otherwise we may lay waste one part of the Country whilst we are improving another, for the Pergunnas bordering on Bahaderpore are all so thin of inhabitants, that they will not admit of my considerable emigration without going themselves to ruin — In compliance with the Governor and Council's commands to me of the 28th of July, I have sent them a compleat account of all the Charges incurred at Midnapore both Civil and Military from the 12th of August 1765 to the 31st Ultimo I should be glad to know, therefore, whether it will not be sufficient for me to send you an account of the Collection only, or if the Charges also are Necessary whether you require the whole Charges, or only the Charges Collections Enclosed is the Midnapore Treasury Account for the month of July, with a Bill of Exchange upon the Paymaster General for Current Rupees 13 400 0 0. Enclosed are also two Bills of Exchange from Mr Marriott, one for Arcot Rupees 1,086, the other for current Rupees 1665 being the amount of a Remittance which I have made him, in consequence of his representing to me that he was a good deal distressed These sums will appear in the Treasury Account for the month of August

I am, etc,
[G. VANSITTART]

No 387

FORT WILLIAM,
The 11th August, 1768To MR GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 8th instant, but do not esteem the reason you have therein assigned for not furnishing us with a statement of your Factory a sufficient one, and therefore direct that in future you

will not omit on any account transmitting us one regularly every month

We are, etc ,
H VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
RICHARD BECHER,
CLAUDE RUSSELL,
CHARLES FLOYER.

No 388

Extract of Fort William Consultations, dated the 11th August 1768

The Board having taken into Consideration the Regulations under which the Court of Directors have directed the Salt Trade to be laid open, and the necessary measures to be pursued to carry them into execution, came to the following Resolution upon the 92 Paragraph of their General Letter of the 20th of November

That the Collector General be desired to obtain as exact an account as he possibly can of the number of Collaries in the Calcutta Pergunnahs and Company's Lands within the Provinces of Burdwan, Midnapore, and Chittagong, and lay a Return of them before the Board.

That every Collarie be distinguished by some Mark or Number as well that they may be distinctly known by each person who bids for them at the public sale, so as to prevent any disputes when they are delivered over to the respective purchasers.

That the Collaries be put up to sale on the 20th of October next, and that the purchasers shall engage to bring the Salt from the collaries when it is made to one of the two public marts, viz Rajabary or Barna_{ore}, but to either of them as may suit their convenience

A true Extract
(Signed) EDWARD BABER,
Secretary

A true Copy
F HOLMES,
Deputy Collector

No 389.

WHEREAS THE HON'BLE COURT OF DIRECTORS have ordered the Inland Trade in Salt to be laid open and to be carried on by the Natives only ,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all the Collaries within the Company's Lands will be exposed to Sale on the 20th of October next, in lots, five Collaries in each lot, and no persons allowed to take more than thirty, and

all Europeans are hereby expressly prohibited from being bidders at the Sale or holding any of the Salt Works in their hands directly or indirectly.

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL, FORT WILLIAM, the 11th August, 1768

(Signed) EDWARD BABER,
Secretary.

A true copy
J HOLME,
Deputy Collector

No 390

CALCUTTA
12th August, 1768
(Recd. 14th, 1768)

To GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ

SIR,

I have received your Letter of the 8th instant, and have the honour to acquaint you that the 17 Chest of Treasure which were dispatched the 27th Ultò arrived here yesterday. cost which accompanied it was returned to you that day With the above letter I have your Treasury Accounts for July and the three Bills of Exchange therein mentioned

As the Accounts of Charges at Midnapore will be wanted to enable me to form a general statement of the Charges incurred in the different branches of my Department, I should therefore, be glad that it might accompany your accounts of Collection

As to obliging the Bahadre Zemindar to dispose of that Pergunnah, as it may be a means of relieving the Ryotts from oppression, and may afford an opportunity of having it better cultivated, I therefore, cannot but think this a necessary ...

Some hopes from some of your former letters that the Zemindars could themselves have undertaken the improvement of the remaining waste lands in [their] Districts, but if you, nevertheless, think it desirable to grant Talucks for any part of them to the Calcutta people, I leave it entirely to yourself to settle with their Gomastahs in what manner you think will be most conducive to the Company's interest

As many Ryotts as can be spared from hence without manifest prejudice to their part of the Country I will prevail upon as much as possible to remove to Midnapore, then, I flatter myself you will have pretty good supplies from the Pergunnahs bordering on the Ballasore and Midnapore Provinces

I am, etc,
RICHARD BECHER,
Collector-General.

No 391

[To G VANSITTART]

CALCUTTA

16th August, 1768

(Recd. 18th August, 1768)

Sir,

Aggreeable to the Hon'ble Board's Letter to me under date the 11th Instant, and the several Extracts therein referred to, *copies of all which are enclosed*, I desire you will as soon as possible prepare and send me an account of the Account Collections under your charge from September 1st 1768, specifying the amount for each month separately and distinctly

In consequence of the orders regarding the Collaries, you will be pleased to let public notice to be immediately given that these within your . . Province will be put up to sale on the 20th of October next, in lots, five in each lot, and that no person will be allowed to take more than 30 lots and that all Europeans are expressly prohibited from being bidders at such Sales or to have any Salt works in their hands either directly [or indirectly]

I desire to have an exact account of the number of Collaries in work of your Provinces as soon as possible and that the Collaries, as recommended by the Hon'ble Board may be respectively distinguished by some marks previous to the time of sale

I am, etc ,
RICHARD BECHER,
Collector-General

No 392

To G VANSITTART.

CALCUTTA

16th August, 1768.

Sir,

Agreeable to the Hon'ble Board's letters to me under date the 11th instant and the several therein referred to, *copies of all which are enclosed*, you will so soon as possible prepare and send me an account of the salt collections under your charge from September 1767 to the 1st September 1768 specifying the amount for each month separately and distinctly

In consequence of the orders regarding the Collaries you will be pleased to let public notice be immediately given that those within your province will be put up to sale on the 20th October next in lots, five in a lot, and that no person will be allowed to take more than thirty lots, and that all Europeans are expressly prohibited from being bidders at such sales, or holding any of the salt works in their hands either directly or indirectly

I desire to have an exact account of the number of Collary works in your Province as soon as possible and that the Collaries, as recommended by the Hon'ble Board may be respectively distinguished by some mark previous to the time of their sale

I am (etc) ,
RICHARD BECHER,
Collector-General

No 393

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQR,
Collector-General

MIDNAPORE
17th August, 1768

SIR,

I have been favoured with your Letter of the 12th and herewith enclose two accounts of the Receipts and Disbursements for the Midnapore and Jallesore Chucklas viz: One of the settled Revenue and Charges Collection, and one of some occasional Receipts and Disbursements which appear in the Midnapore Revenue Books under the article of Profit and Loss. I know not whether you have any occasion for this latter account, but I thought at all events right to send it to you. If the article of Poolbundy require explanation, I beg leave to refer you to my Letter to the Collector-General of the 7th July 1767. In speaking of the waste land belonging to these Chucklas, it is necessary to distinguish between that which in the Zemindary and Canoogoy Papers is called fit for cultivation and that which is called unfit. The former, as I have observed in several of my letters, will soon I believe be entirely cultivated by the several Zemindars and Taluckdars to whom it belongs. The latter, as I mentioned in my letter of the 23rd June, can hardly be expected to be undertaken till the number of inhabitants is considerably increased. This waste land is chiefly in our Western Pergunnas, which are bounded partly by our own Junguls and partly by Mohrbunge and other Morattoe Districts, and these are all of them very incapable of furnishing us with any considerable supply of inhabitants. The Calcutta Gomastahs are not yet arrived.

I am with esteem,
[G VANSITTART]

No 394.

CAMP AT HULDYPOCKRR
The 17th August, 1768

TO GEO VANSITTART, ESQ

SIR,

I have wrote you since my arrival here three letters besides this without receiving an answer to either of them. This day I received some paper which I suppose you sent me, but no letter or Chitt accompanied.

I have now the pleasure to acquaint you that all the Sirdars have been with me. The Ballance of the Companies account will be settled in a day or two when I shall return to Narsingur, and settle what Business there is there to do — when I go from here I will leave Subahar Shauk Adam with forty men, the rest of his Company will be a sufficient garrison for Narsingur. I think it absolutely necessary that a Subadar and forty men should remain here to prevent the return of Juggonant Doll. Should it meet with your approbation it will be only ordering them to Narsingur where you formerly proposed stationing Shauk Adam's Company —

As soon as I have finished the Company's Business at Narsingur I suppose I may return to Midnapore, however I will wait at Narsingur.

few days for your orders. I must not stay longer as we shall be short of provisions.—

I understand from Kirpasinda that Fergusson, when he was at Narsingar, laid a Tax on the People of these Pergunnahs to pay him yearly an annah on Every Rupee they paid to the Rajah. I have ordered that money arising from this Tax to be brought to the Companies account for the present and not to be levied for the future. I shall order Naderam Bavey to make a particular enquiry into this affair as my account comes from bad interpreters. I acquaint you with it because it is my duty not to conceal anything that may prove to the detriment of the Company.

In my last I told you I intended ordering Naderam to Midnapore because he did not chuse to travel on bad roads. I accordingly sent him orders for that purpose but at the same time gave him his choice, either to come here, or return to Midnapore. He thought proper to chuse the former and arrived here yesterday.

I have found out Govinderam the old Divan to be a very great scoundrel no less than holding correspondence with Jaggonant Doll and the Baman Zimindar without my knowledge, the letters which—received from them... have been found upon him, ordered him to be tried, if he is found guilty I will punish him as a spie.—

I am etc.

C. MORGAN.

I must beg the favour of you to acquaint Rooke that I have received the Sepoys Pay.

No. 395.

CALCUTTA.

18th August, 1768.

(Received 19th August, 1768).

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq.

SIR,

In my letter of the 16th instant, you have the purport of the Advertisement to be made regarding the Sale of the Salt Collaries in your Provinces. However, that it may correspond entirely with the one published here by the Board, I enclose you a copy of it.

With the Account of next Collections, which you are preparing, from the 1st September 1767, I shall be glad to have an abstract from the Monthly Charges of Collections from the same period so as to shew clearly the several deductions which have been made from the gross Collections.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD BECHER,

Collector-General.

No 396

FORT WILLIAM
20th August, 1768

To GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ

SIR

I have received your letter of the 6th (?) instant enclosing abstract for the Expences of your Residency for the month of July

You have my permission to indulge Mr Pearce with one of your blank Dustucks

I am, etc,
H VERELST

No 397

MIDNAPORE
22nd August, 1768

To RICHARD BECHER, ESQ

SIR

I have been favoured with your letter of the 16th and 18th The Account of the Collections and Charges at Midnapore shall be prepared as soon as possible but some delay will be unavoidably occasioned by our present Orissa year not concluding till the 21st or 22nd of September, so that our August Treasury Accounts cannot be closed till then

I have published the Advertizement concerning the Salt Business and have given orders for a list of the Collars (*sic*) in the manner you direct to be prepared immediately It shall be transmitted to you as soon as it is ready

I expect that many Petitions will be presented to me by the Zemindars in consequence of these orders The Collaries are included in their Sunnuds and they have been used to look upon them as their own Property I believe there are some of them to whom it will be found necessary either to grant some equivalent or a deduction in their Rents, however it will be time enough to settle this matter at the next Tushkees

I am, etc

P S—In my account of Collections and Charges shall I include the Article of Profit and Loss which I mentioned in my letter of the 17th or take no notice of them?

[G. VANSITTART]

No 398

MIDNAPORE
22nd August, 1768

To RICHARD BECHER ESQ

DEAR SIR,

I know not whether the Court of Directors in their orders concerning the Salt have not been aware that the Collaries in the Midnapore and

Jallesore Provinces are included in the Zemindar's Sunnuds, or whether they think that those Sunnuds may justly be dispenced with. If the latter, the Zemindars have only to submit, but that they will be, do I (*sic*) imagine without giving me a good deal of trouble first with their complaints, if the former, might not the purpose of diffusing the Salt amongst as many hands as possible be answered by an order being published that no one should contract for above a limited quantity, that a list of all the contractors should on a certain day be delivered in to the Resident and transmitted to the Collector-General, and that the Contractors should engage to carry the Salt to one of the Public marts which have been fixed upon?

I am, etc.,

[G. VANSITTART.]

No 399.

CALCUTTA,

1st September, 1768.

Received 4th September, 1768.

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq

SIR

I have received your letter of the 17th ultimo with the Accounts mentioned to be enclosed in it

The Gomistabs having left this place sometime ago, I imagine in this they are arrived with you. Situated as I find the waste lands in your Western Pargannahs are, I can easily conceive how difficult it must be to obtain a tolerable supply of inhabitants from the adjacent country, though could they be made sensible of the very different treatment which they would receive from our mode of Government and the advantages they might expect to have from such a change, these considerations should I think, induce many to avail themselves of our protection

Upon examining your accounts for July, the following alterations appear necessary. In the Treasury Account the Batta upon one of the Sums which compose Mr Pearce's Bill, instead of ———— and in summing up the different species of Rupees, at the foot of your Account of Charges for that month, you will perceive that the Batta on 1,220-3-8 instead of 85 ought to be 76-4-2

Upon your advising me of having made these alterations, I will cause the accounts which you have sent me to be altered conformably. You will likewise observe that this will cause a ———— in the Account of Revenues which you have [submitted?]

I am, etc.,

RICHARD BECHER,

Collector-General

P. S — I shall have occasion for the Copies of the Revenue Accounts Court. As soon as one is ready I shall be glad to have it

TO MR. GEORGE VAN SITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

FORT WILLIAM:
The 1st September, 1768.
(Recd. 6th do.)

SIR,

The Regulations and Restrictions under which the Hon'ble Company have thought proper to put the Inland Trade in Salt you will be made acquainted with from the enclosed paragraphs of their General Letter dated the 16th March 1768. And these Regulations we direct to be punctually complied with, and on no pretence to be evaded or infringed.

We are, etc.,

H. VERELST,
 JOHN CARTIER,
 RICHARD SMITH,
 CLAUD RUSSELL,
 CHARLES FLOYER.

Transcribed,
 SH. BIRD.

ENCLOSURE 1.

*Extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter under
 date the 16th March, 1768.*

Para. 36. The resolution of your Select Committee for prohibiting the private purchase of the Company's Sortments of Raw Silk was very commendable, and shewed a disinterested zeal for our service. It is the increase of this article of our Investment that we chiefly depend for the bringing home of our Revenues, the Importation being a national benefit, and the consumption more unlimited than that of the manufactured goods. You must, therefore, continue to bestow the greatest attention to it. Mr. Verelst's Letter on the Bardwan affairs points out that the influence of Government may be exerted for the encouragement of the growth of the Mulberry trees; that every other means must be thought of for the extension of this valuable Branch of our Trade.

Para. 39. We desire you will send us the Medium Price of Rice in the different Provinces for the last ten years, and continue the same yearly.

Para. 43. Altho' we approve the spirit of your conduct towards the Dutch upon their seizing the Sircar of the Gant of Duan Gange, yet being a matter properly recognizable by the Country Government the Resident at Bardwan should not himself have taken satisfaction, but obtained in through the Raja. You likewise went too far in threatening, if the Dutch refused to make proper submission for this insult, to withdraw their benefit of trade in our lands. The freedom of Trade of

ENCLOSURE 3

*Extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter dated the
20th November 1767*

Para 92 In the future we direct that the Salt Trade be laid open to the natives in general under the following Regulations, viz, that all the Collaries or Salt pans within the Company's jurisdiction in the Calcutta Pargunnahs, and Company's Lands, and the Provinces of Burdwan Midnapore and Chittagong be put up to Public Sale at their respective Capitals and sold to the best bidder, five Collaries in each lot, and that no person be allowed to take more than thirty lots, which we judge will enable him to make about forty-five or fifty thousand Beezar maunds of Salt in the year, and that two months notice be given all through the Country before the sale begins and all Europeans are hereby expressly prohibited from being bidders at such sales, or holding any of the Salt works in their hands either directly or indirectly

A true extract
EDWD. BABER,
Secretary

A true copy
F HOLME JUNR,
D Gr.

No 401

THE HON'BLE COMPANY from a tender regard and attention to the welfare and ease of the Native inhabitants of these provinces, having thought proper to prohibit the servants and other Europeans under their protection from trading in Salt, Beetle or Tobacco or any other article the produce of this country but what is meant for exportation, it being their express intention that the inland trade of the country shall be confined to the Natives only

NOTICE IS HEREBY accordingly given to all concerned that from this day the exclusive privilege of the Society of Trade is at an end, and that any European who shall be found acting either directly or indirectly contrary to the spirit of these the Company's orders shall not only suffer confiscation of their goods, but, if a Company's servant shall be dismissed the service and, if not in the Company's service, shall forfeit the Company's protection

By order of the Hon'ble President and Council
FORT WILLIAM, the 3rd September, 1768

A true Copy
THO HENCHMAN,
Assistant Secretary

Copy of a Publication made at Fort William, the 18th May, 1768

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that after the expiration of two months from the 27th April, No Gomastahs employed by the English shall be permitted to remain in any part out of the Provinces of BENGALL, BAHAR AND ORISSA, and, after that period, that no Company's Servant, Free Merchant or other European residing under the Company's Protection shall be suffered to carry on any inland trade, directly or indirectly, beyond those limits, under penalty if a Company's servant of being immediately dismissed the service if a Free-merchant or other European of forfeiting the Company's protection And that if any Europeans whatsoever shall attempt to transport any merchandize beyond the provinces, all such merchandize shall be seized and confiscated, and the Gomastahs having charge of such contraband trade shall be punished with the utmost severity.

All Armenians, Portugeze, or the Descendants of Armenians and Portugeze, living under the Company's Protection are included in the above restrictions, it being intended that none but the Natives of the country (Massulmen and Hindoos) shall in future enjoy this privilege

By order of the Hon'ble the President and Council.

A true Copy.

EDWARD BABER,
Assistant Secretary

No 403.

MIDNAPORE,
5th September, 1768

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 1st but find upon examination that our July Treasury Account is right The difference which you notice has arisen from you calculating the Batta of the Bazyruckums* upon the Sicca Weight instead of the Tale.

Three copies of the Revenue Accounts shall be transmitted to you immediately on the conclusion of our Orissa year. You do not mention whether or not you would choose that article of Profit and Loss would be included.

I am &c,
[G VANSITTART]

* Bazyruckums "Whatever species of rupees has from one pice to one anna in the rupee of more alloy than the Murshedabad Arcot are called under the name of Bazee Ruckum and such as have from one to two annas alloy are styled Gur Sanls the Collector to Wm Hay, Acting Secretary to the Board Midnapur, 10th January 1781

CALCUTTA,
5th September, 1768
(Received 8th do)

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ

SIR,

For your information and guidance I send you the accompanying extract from the Honble Company's General Letter dated the 16th March 1768, and desire that the Orders they contain may be strictly attended to. The account of the medium price of Rice for the last 6 years in the different Districts under your charge I should be glad to have as soon as possible.

Notwithstanding my intention to have been present at the Ceremony of the Pooneah in order to have assisted in the settling of the Collections for the ensuing year, yet, on account of Public Business, I find it will be impossible and therefore desire you will take the necessary measures for making the New Years adjustments at the usual season. Your last remittance of Treasure has been shroffed and counted as agreeable to your invoice.

I am, etc ,
RICHARD BECHER,
Collector-General.

ENCLOSURE

Extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter under date the 16th March, 1768

PARA 36 The resolution of your Select Committee prohibiting the private purchase of the Company's Sortments of raw silk was very commendable, and showed a disinterested zeal for our service. It is on the increase of this article of our investment that we chiefly depend for the bringing home our revenues, the importation being a national benefit, and the consumption more unlimited than that of the manufactured goods. You must therefore continue to bestow the greatest attention to it. Mr Verelst's letter on the Bardwan affairs points out that the influence of the Government may be exerted for the encouragement of the growth of the mulberry trees that and every other means must be thought of for the extension of this valuable branch of our trade.

PARA 39 We desire you will send us the medium price of rice in the different provinces for the last ten years, and continue the same yearly.

PARA 43 Although we approve the spirit of your conduct towards the Dutch upon their seizing the Sircar of the Gant of Duan Gunge, yet being a matter properly cognizable by the Country Government, the Resident at Bardwan should not himself have taken satisfaction, but obtained it through the Rajah. You likewise went too far in threatening if the Dutch refused to make proper submission for this insult to withdraw their benefit of trade in our lands. The freedom of trade of other European Powers

should not upon any account be infringed, though at the same time we expect it should be reciprocal as well in their lands as ours.

A true extract.

JAMES IRWIN,

Sub-Secretary

A true copy

F. HOLMS,

Deputy Collector.

No 405.

MIDNAPORE,

10th September, 1768.

TO FRANCIS STOKES, ESQ *

DEAR SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 2nd, and am sorry that I must excuse myself from complying with your desire. If you please, I will write immediately to Calcutta for permission to furnish you with the accounts of the Midnapore Revenues and Collections. Without such Permission you must be sensible that I should expose myself to the blame of my Superiors. I am persuaded that this idea would have readily occurred to you had I requested a similar Statement of the Revenues under your charge, and that you yourself would not hesitate to join in the censure of any Company's Servants who should be imprudent enough to furnish papers from his Office without the sanction of a proper authority.

I am, &c,

[G VANSITTART]

No 406.

MIDNAPORE,

15th September, 1768.

TO JOHN CARTIER, ESQ,

Export Warehouse Keeper.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 11th, I have sent to enquire into the complaints which have been made by the Kirpoy Gomastah, and have warned Sitarum Cawn to be careful to avoid obstructing the Company's business but it will be difficult for me to obtain a just knowledge of the facts without hearing the pleas of both parties, and I shall therefore be obliged to you if you will direct the Gomastah to send some one to represent his grievance. With respect to secreting the weavers there were mutual complaints between Seetaram Cawn and the Gomastah in February last concerning some which Seetaram Cawn had long employed in his own and the Ranny's Service. I directed that in future eight only should be kept for that purpose, and that all the rest should work for the Company,

and of those eight I gave a list to the Gomastah that, in case of Sitaram Cawn's disobeying my orders, he might the more easily be able to prove it

I am, etc,
[G VANSITTART]

No 407

To RICHARD BECHER, ESQR,
Collector-General

MIDNAPORE,
14th September, 1768

SIR,
I have been favoured with your letter of the 5th Instant, and herewith enclose an account of the medium price of rice at Midnapore for these years past.

The season having hitherto been favourable, no difficulties will occur I believe in settling the Tushkees for the ensuing year, unless in the pergunnas containing the collaries, and concerning these I shall have the pleasure of informing myself personally of your sentiments in Calcutta, as I have the Governor's permission to repair thither immediately upon the close of the present Orissa year. Several petitions have been delivered to me by the Zemindars, in consequence of the orders for putting up the Collaries to outcry. Their contents are such as I cannot myself give them any answer, so I purpose, therefore, to transmit them all for your observation and directions, together with the list of collaries a few days hence.

There has been a charge upon the Midnapore Revenue this and the last year which I omitted to insert in my account of the Collections and Expenses, the Charge I mean is the allowance settled by the Select Committee for the Canoongoes and their servants, on which account the following Payments have been made —

In the Orissa year 1174

February	O Rs	5119 3-3
August		4730-6 6 9849-9-9

In the Orissa year 1175

February	O Rs	5119-3-3
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I am etc,
[G. VANSITTART]

No. 408

To RICHARD BECHER, ESQR,
Collector-General.

MIDNAPORE,
23rd September, 1768

SIR,
I before wrote you that the misbehaviour and obstinate folly of Jagga-nant Doll, the late Zemindar of Gatsela, had obliged me to appoint another

Zemindar in his room The Pergunna is now entirely settled again and the business going on in a proper channel However the disturbances which happened before the authority of the new Zemindar could be well established have occasioned a deficiency in the Rents of A Sa Rupees 721 5 11 This however I hope will be received about a month's time, and I have the pleasure to inform you that all the rest of the Revenues of the Midnapore and Jalesore Provinces has been entirely collected. The Treasury Account an Invoice of a Lack Sicca wt of treasure, and the Account of the Collections and Charges at Midnapore from September 1767 to August 1768 shall be transmitted in two or three days

[G VANSITTART]

No 409

TO MR GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore

FORT WILLIAM
28th September, 1768
(Recd 30th do)

SIR,

Inclosed we send you the List of Investment ordered by the Court of Directors to be provided this year at your Factory, and to which we direct that you pay the strictest regard and attention And we particularly recommend to you to extend your Investment as much as possible, either in the higher or lower assortments of it, as you find most practicable

We are etc
H VERELST,
RICHD BECHER
CHARLES FLOYER
FRAS CHARLTON

No 410

MIDNAPORE
30th September, 1768

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQ,
Collector-General

SIR,

Inclosed I transmit you a list of the Collaries in the Provinces of Midnapore and Jalesore, and, in order to convey a clearer idea of their produce I have divided them into three Classes In the first are comprehended all such as usually yield 200 Mds or upwards, in the second those which usually yield between 200 and 150, and in the third those which yield less than 150 I likewise inclose for your observation a petition which I have received from the Zemindars of Beercool Petitions on the same subject which have been also presented to me by the other Zemindars but, as their purport is entirely the same it is needless to trouble you with them The following you will observe to be the substance of what they plead in

their behalf —that the collaries form a part of their Zemindarries, are included in their Sunnud, and have ever been considered as their own property, that it is merely by the profits thereof they are enabled to pay the Company's Malguzzarys, that considerable quantities of Salt are due from them to different Merchants, and large sums of money have been lent them upon the Credit of their Collaries, and that if their Collaries are now taken from them it will be totally out of their power either to pay revenues, fulfil their contracts, or satisfy their creditors I request to be favoured with your directions on these circumstances, and likewise regarding the conduct necessary to be observed with respect to the Mulunghees The same people being Ryots of the Zemindars, and employed in the business of Cultivation as well as that of making salt, many disputes will probably arise concerning them between the Zemindars and the Purchasers of the Collaries

I am, &c,
[G VANSITTART]

No 411.

MIDNAPORE,
5th October, 1768

TO THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, ESQ.,
President and Governor and Council of Fort William

HON'BLE SIR & SIRs,

I have been favoured with your commands of the 28th of September with the List of Investment to be provided at Midnapore Factory The Investment for which orders were given in March with the approbation of the Export Ware house Keeper is considerably larger than that which is ordered by the Hon'ble Court of Directors, and the season is now too far advanced to admit of any alterations for the present year For the ensuing it may, I believe, be a good deal extended in the fine assortment of goods, but I will do myself the honor of addressing you more fully on this subject hereafter —

Inclosed are the Cash Account and Statement of Midnapore Factory for the month of September

I am, etc.,
[G VANSITTART]

No 412

TO MR GEORGE VAN SITTART, Resident at Midnapore.

FORT WILLIAM,
The 11th October, 1768.
(Recd 13th do)

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 5th instant.

As the List of Investment is intended more as a Guide to you in the Assortments of the Cloths than the quantity you are to provide, we desire that you will be particularly attentive to this Circumstance, and also increase

every assortment mentioned therein, if you can, as well as every other in your Power.

We are, etc,

H VERRELST,
RICHD BECHER
JAS ALEXANDER,
CHARLES FLOYER,
FRAS CHARLTON.

No 413

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA,
11th October, 1768
(Recd. 13th do)

SIR,

I have duly received your several letters of the 24th August, and the 5th, 14th, and 23rd, 26th, and 27th ulto and of the 3rd and 5th instant, with the papers therein enclosed, viz. —

1. The Account of the medium price of rice for ten years.
- 2 Treasury Account for August
- 3 Last of Purgunnah Servants.
- 4 Invoice for a Laac of Rupees Sicca Wt.
- 5 Two Bills of Exchange
 1. On the My P. M. Genl Rs. 13,200.
 - 2 On the Buzy. „ 1,047-8.
- 6 Three copies of the Accounts Collections and Charges from September 1767 to 1 September 1768 inclusive
- 7 A list of Collaries in the Midnapore and Jallasore Provinces
- 8 Treasury Account for September
- 9 A Bill of Exchange on the My. P M Gl for Ct Rs 10,000
10. Three Copies of the Accounts, Collections and Charges from the 1st August 1765 to July 1768 inclusive

I have laid the substance of what you wrote me on the subject of the salt Collaries before the Board, and shall in a few days acquaint you with their determination

I think it a fortunate circumstance your removal of the Gateela Zemindar, and am glad to find that the business of that pergunnah is again reduced to a proper character, and that the disturbances which happened the authority of the new Zamindar could be sufficiently established, have demonstrated so favorably

It affords me much satisfaction to find that the Revenues of last year are entirely collected, except the small Ballance occasion'd by the above troubles, which, I hope you have likewise ere this recovered

I am etc,
RICHD BECHER
Collector-General

No 414

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ

CALCUTTA
13th October, 1768
(Recd. 14th do)

SIR,

It being necessary to postpone the sale of the Salt Kallaries, I direct that you will write under the Advertisement that the sale is deferred till further Orders

I am etc ,
RICHARD BECHER,
Collector General

No 415

MIDNAPORE
16th October, 1768.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQ.,
Collector-General.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letters of the 11th and 13th of October and have given directions for deferring the Outcry of the Salt Collaries, agreeable to your orders Herewith I have the pleasure to transmit you a Set of the Midnapore Revenue Books for the Orissa year 1175, being from September 1767 to August 1768 inclusive

I am, &c ,
[G. VANSITTART]

No 416.

TO MR GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore,

FORT WILLIAM
The 24th October, 1768
(Recd 29th do)

SIR,

Whatever Europe articles you may be in want of for the use of your Factory we desire you will in future indent to the Presidency for, in order that you may be supplied with them from the Company's different offices.

We are, etc ,
H. VERELST,
RICHARD BECHER,
JAS ALEXANDER,
CHARLES FLOYER,
FRANCIS CHARLTON.

No. 417

MIDNAPORE

28th October, 1768

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq.,
Collector-General

SIR

I have been favoured with your letter of the 27th and shall pay strict attention to the Regulations therein contained. The following circumstances answer not being noticed I must request your orders concerning them. A considerable quantity of Salt is usually received every year from the Moratta districts through the Western parts of Midnapore into the Bahar Province. Is it the intention of the Board that this should pass duty free or should the 30 Rupees per 100 Maunds be collected upon it and the necessary rowanas granted? In the Midnapore Chukls there are Officers belonging to Hooghly who collect a duty of about 3 Rs per 100 Maunds upon all the Salt which passes through the country. Is this duty to continue to be paid or are those Officers now to be removed? It is mentioned that no salt is to be transported from the Collaries without a Perwana to accompany it. Is the salt furnished with these perwannahs to proceed to Calcutta duty free or are the usual customs to be levied upon it at the several Chokies in Burdwan in the Calcutta Lands in the Hooghly and the Hidgely districts?

[G VANSITTART]

No 418

To G VANSITTART

CALCUTTA

27th October, 1768

(Recd 28th do)

SIR,

I duly received your letter of the 16th instant accompanying a set of Midnapore Revenue Books for the Orissa Year 1165

I herewith send you an Extract from the Fort William Consultation of the 7th instant containing the regulations which have been resolved on by the Hon'ble Board regarding the disposal of the Salt made last year and the Duty to be collected upon it as also for conducting the Inland trade in Salt for the ensuing season which you will be pleased to have carried into execution so far as respects the districts under your management and I desire your particular attention that they may be strictly conformed to

I am etc,

RICHARD BECHER

Collector-General

ENCLOSURE

Extract from the Consultations Fort William October 7th 1768

As the salt made last year is now moving from the churs and no duty hath yet been established on it, or any Regulation made regarding the disposal of it.

The Board are of opinion that previous to their resolutions on the Committee's letter this circumstance should first be attended to, and the same having been maturely considered

Agreed that we write to the Resident at the Durbar to recommend to the Ministers to issue their orders for putting in execution the regulations we propose with regard to the disposal of this salt, and which are as follows —

That a duty on it of 30 sicca rupees per 100 maunds be collected at Hooghly and Rajaburry, and that the Government officers employed in the collection of this duty grant perwannahs on the receipt thereof, specifying the quantity of salt, the person it belongs to, and the amount of duties collected, which shall then pass to the different marts it may be intended for free of every other duty, and that this duty be collected as the salt is brought to either of the first named places by those who import it

That the strictest orders be given to all other chokies not to collect any further duty on any salt for which such perwannahs shall be produced, and to prevent any smuggling, all salt attempted to be passed without such perwannahs shall be confiscated

That the most public notice be issued in all parts that after the payment of the above duty no other shall be collected under the pain of the severest punishment, and

In order that the intention of these regulations, which are meant solely for the use and convenience of the natives, may not be frustrated—

Agreed that we recommend to the Resident at the Durbar that at the same time he proposes them to the Ministers, he will also most earnestly recommend to them to prevent as much as possible a monopoly of the markets

As there are frequently means found by individuals to convey salt out of the Provinces of Midnapore and Burdwan over the hills into Behar, and in order to prevent this practice—

Agreed that the Collector General be desired to write to the Rajah of Burdwan and Resident to grant perwannahs for all salt that may be sent through that district, or the persons to whom it belongs paying the stipulated duty of 30 sicca rupees per 100 maunds, and to give public notice that all salt which may or shall be found without these perwannahs shall be confiscated that the Collector General be further desired to issue these Regulations to the Resident at Midnapore, that like precautions may be taken in his district, and to transmit them also to Chittagong

Agreed also that we acquaint the Chief of Patna with these Regulations, and desire that he will request the officers of the Government there to take such measures as will most effectually prevent any salt being brought into the Province of Behar in a clandestine manner, and seize and confiscate whatever quantity may by any means be conveyed into the province without those perwannahs, and that it be particularly mentioned to the Resident at the Durbar, the Collector General and Chief of Patna, that these restrictions are meant only for the salt that was made last season, and not that belonging to the Committee of trade which must always be distinguished by its having had a dustuck

The Board then proceeded to take into mature consideration the orders and directions of the Hon'ble Court of Directors contained in their letter

of the 20th November 1767, regarding the salt business, and it is their unanimous opinion that the Khalaris in these districts should be put up to sale—an opinion that they are the more inclined to from the consideration that though they cannot act up to the literal orders of the Court of Directors without an evident disadvantage to the Company, yet that they shall not deviate from the spirit and meaning of them, and that by the Regulations they now propose for carrying on the salt trade, they shall be enabled to put it upon as equitable or just a footing as the Court of Directors have proposed without subjecting them to the inconveniences that they have pointed out, and these Regulations are—

That every zemindar or landholder whose churs and kalaris are granted to him by sunnud and also all farmers on lease, shall continue to enjoy the benefit of working them, but they shall be restricted by bond and penalty not to dispose of a larger quantity than maunds . . . to any one purchaser - they are to keep an account of every sale, which may be weekly transmitted to the Sudder or head cutcheries of Burdwan, Midnapore, and Chittagong, there to be recorded, and reference made on any scrutiny which may be deemed necessary in regard to persons, quantity, or price, which may serve to prevent monopolies

That an entire freedom be granted to all other merchants, natives of the country, or the castes of Moors or Gentoos, for renting and working all other Khalaris whatever, provided no one person, directly or indirectly, makes a larger quantity than maunds 50 000 The restricting in quantity we deem more consonant to the wishes of our Masters than in Khalaris, they being of such different sizes as to yield from 100 to 300 maunds each , and in order to encourage the molunghis to their duty, to diffuse among the merchants this liberty, and to prevent confusion or disputes with one another, every merchant must engage in his service the molunghis, whom he must bring to the nearest public cutchery to be examined whether they are free from all other engagements , and it is voluntarily that they themselves enter his service when their names and residence must be registered, with the names and residence of the merchant to whom they engage, which engagement is to last for one year only , and the zeminder of each district is directed to lend every assistance to secure such merchant the attentive service of such molunghis, and again to see that the merchant strictly conforms to his engagements with the molunghis and in case any one merchant should seduce any molunghi from another merchant, he shall be fined as the case may merit The molunghis thus engaged for one year shall not be liable, after the expiration of that year, to be called upon for further services by the merchant, unless voluntarily, and for no balances whatever after the expiration of the approaching season But in consideration of the very heavy balance due from the molunghis to the merchants on account of the last years advances they are to have the preference of the molunghis' services for this season The above register of merchants and molunghis is to be sent weekly to the general head cutcherries in order that public license may be granted to the merchants for entertaining the molunghis registered The officer of each district is also to keep an account of all salt made therein, and by whom, and to send the same to the head cutcherry, there to be recorded weekly , and it is strictly recommended to prevent as much as possible any one family or set of merchants continuing together or in any shape establishing a monopoly.

No salt to be removed from any churs without a rowannah from the Resident or Collector General specifying the proprietors' names of such salt, and number of boats on which it is transported by water, if by land the number of bullocks, and by whatever means else it be transported

The weekly returns of the rowannah granted by the Collector-General shall be transmitted to and entered by him in a general register, and that peons shall be sent with the rowannahs, as at present, with the dustucks and registers kept of the arrival of salt at the different markets in the Company's lands, to be transmitted weekly to the Collector to be entered in his register

If any boats are found smuggling salt, the same be confiscated to the Government, boat and salt, any boat having salt on board and hoisting English colours, pretending to an English dustuck, or having more salt on board than specified in the rowannah shall be liable to confiscation together with the cargo, and the Nabob's ministers will seize the same as forfeited to the Government

That all salt produced at Ingellee, Absadani, etc, districts, and the Company's lands shall be carried to and landed at Bally Creek, which is found upon a survey by Mr Rennell to be a proper place, that all salt produced to the Eastward shall be brought to Rajahburry, which hath also been reported to as very proper for lodging the salt at

That the sum of 30 sicca rupees per 100 maunds shall be the duty to be collected from the importer on all salt brought to Bally Creek or Rajahburry in order to secure to the Company the stipulated revenue of Rs 81,00,000, which upon a calculation this duty will afford, even should the season prove unfavourable for manufacturing the salt

The Board agree in opinion with the Committee that the price of salt at these two places should not exceed more than 110 sicca rupees per 100 maunds

Agreed that we transmit a copy of these Regulations for the last as well as the ensuing season to the Resident at the Durbar, and desire him to recommend the Ministers to adopt and follow the same

Ordered that the Collector General be furnished with a copy of the Consultation in order that he may ...the same in the district under his inspection

A true Extract.

A true copy

F HOLME, JUNR,

Deputy Collector

No 419.

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ

(CALCUTTA

4th November, 1768

(Recd 8th do)

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 28th ultimo, and in answer to your observations, desire that you will give immediate notice that all salt brought

into, or conveyed through any part of the Midnapore Province, either from the Moratta Districts or elsewhere, will be subjected to the Duty of 30 Sicca Rupees per % maunds, as recommended by the Hon'ble Board to the Ministers of the Government, and that, on payment of this anticipated duty, Perwannahs will be granted exempting it from all other Dutys, and that any salt found without such Perwannahs will be confiscated

Respecting salt produced in these the Company's Districts, the Perwannahs to be given with it will free it from all Dutys except what shall be required at the establish'd marts

The Treasure, which you dispatched the 25th of September, 17 chests, as per your Invoice of 31st August last, is arrived on the 1st instant I return'd the escort which accompanied it, and shall advise you when it is shroffed

I am, etc ,

RICH'D BECHER,

Collector-General.

No 420.

MIDNAPORE

The 11th November, 1768.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQR ,
Collector-General.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 4th and have caused the several orders of the Board with respect to the Salt trade to be published throughout the Midnapore districts Be kind enough to inform me what is to be done with the money I may collect on account of the duty upon Salt It is not yet the season of the year for disposing of any considerable quantity but some small sales may perhaps be made.

Inclosed is the Treasury account for the month of October

I am etc

No 421

CALCUTTA

12th November, 1768.

(Recd. 13th Ditto)

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ

SIR,

The Hon'ble the President and Council having thought proper to make some alterations in their Regulations of the 7th ulto for carrying on the

Inland Trade in Salt, I herewith transmit you a Copy of them for your guidance.—

I am
SIR,
Your most obedient Servant,
RICHD. BECHER,
Collector-General.

No. 422.

MIDNAPORE:
17th November, 1768.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQR.,
Collector-General.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 12th, with the alterations which have been made in the Regulations of the Salt trade.

Herewith you will receive another set of the Midnapore Revenue Books for the Orissa year 1175. I would wish that the Set which I transmitted you last month should be forwarded to Europe, and that this Set should remain in Calcutta.

I should be obliged to you for an account of the Fines which are established in the Calcutta Pergunnas. In the Chucklas of Midnapore and Jallesore it is customary for the Zemindars to levy more or less as they think proper. This opens a door for much oppression upon the Ryots as the Zemindars are often induced by the desire of gain to be exorbitant in their exactions for every trivial offence. It would contribute greatly to the ease of the Ryots, therefore, if certain fines were established in proportion to the quantity of land rented, and an order was published that a larger sum should on no account be levied without the Resident's express permission, and such permission the Zemindars might apply for in case of any crime being committed which might be judged to deserve a more severe pecuniary punishment. I beg to be favoured with your sentiments on this subject, and am, etc.,

[G. VANSITTART.]

No. 423.

CALCUTTA:
17th November, 1768.
(Recd. 18th do.)

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQR.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 11th instant enclosing your Treasury Account for October and three Bills of Exchange, which you take no notice of—

1 on the Buxy	...	...	Rs. 1026.
1 do	...	...	" 1008.
1 on the Mily P. M. Gen.	...	...	" 9700.

What money you receive on account of the duty on Salt must be esteemed as part of the Revenue and each Province credited monthly as for the other Collections in your Treasury Account.

I am, etc.,
 RICHD. BECHER,
Collector-General.

No. 424.

MIDNAPORE :
 21st November, 1768.

TO RICHARD BECHER, ESQR.,
Collector-General.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your Letters of the 17th and 21st Instant, and will in a day or two communicate for your approbation what I may judge a reasonable latitude to be allowed to the Midnapore and Jalesore Zemindars with respect to the levying of fines. Inclosed I transmit for your perusal a list of the Tegavy to be resumed this year, being the Orissa year 1176, and a statement of the Tushkees which has been settled for the several Pergunnas except Tanna Bulcampore, and Tanna Jampore which belong to the Western Jungles; these also shall be settled, as soon as possible, and then I will do myself the pleasure of forwarding you a complete Statement. You will observe that the Tegavy to be resumed is between 23 and 24,000 Rupees and that the increase in the Company's Malguzary is between 4 and 5,000 Rupees. I hoped the increase would have been somewhat more considerable, but it has been prevented by the difficulties you are acquainted with respecting Cossijura Pergunna, and by the losses which Bhoiomoota, Budgerpur, Cundar and Omercy have suffered from the over-flowing of the Colliaghee. I mentioned to you in Calcutta the misbehaviour of the Petty Zemindars of Tanna Futteabad, a small District belonging to the Jalesore Province I have now sent Lieut. Rooke with two Companies of Sepoys to dispossess them of their Forts, and to put the district on a footing which may be more advantageous to the Company and less troublesome to the neighbouring Pergunnas. Inclosed is a list of what Perwannas I have granted to 22 Instant for the removal of Salt from the several Collaries in these Provinces.

I am, Sir, etc.,
 [G. VANSITTART.]

No. 425.

TO G. VANSITTART, ESQ.

CALCUTTA :
 21st November, 1768,
 (Recd. 23rd do.)

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 17th instant accompanying another set of the Midnapore Revenue Books for the Orissa year 1175, and shall forward the former set to Europe.

I entirely approve of your establishing a fix'd fine not to be exceeded by any Zemindars in the Midnapore and Jallasore Chucklaes. In the Calcutta Purgunnahs where the offence merits a more considerable mulct than three rupees, it is prefer'd to the Collector-General, but perhaps it may be necessary to allow the Midnapore and Jallasore Zemindary a greater latitude. Therefore I have this point to be determined as you shall judge fit and reasonable,

I am, etc.,

RICHD. BECHER,
Collector-General.

No. 426.

TO RICHARD BECHER, Esq.,
Collector-General.

FORT WILLIAM :
The November, 1768.

SIR,

I am directed by the Hon'ble the President and Council to acquaint you that, in consequence of your request to them, they have this day been pleased to make the following alteration in the regulation, which I had the honor to transmit to you the 7th ultimo, for carrying on the Inland Trade in salt.

They have fixed on a third place called Culniabunder* for collecting the established duty on salt, in the same months as at Ballee Creek and Rajah Barry. And they have taken off the restriction which obliged the proprietors of salt to bring all that is made about the districts of Ingellee to Ballee Creek, and granted them the liberty of carrying it to any of the established Marts that may best suit their interest or convenience.

I have, etc.,
EDW. BABER

A true Copy.

HOLME, Junr.,
Deputy-Collector.

No. 427.

TO G. VANSITTART.

BELVIDERE :
27th November.

SIR,

In consequence of some Regulations lately made by the Zemindar† for keeping the bearers at the Presidency in due order several sets of the Oreeh cast have left their masters within the last two or three days ; upon which account I have to request that you will order out parties of sepoy to all the ghauts or passes that lead into the Kuttack Province with directions to take up every bearer who are travelling that way without the

* Kalmabandi (Field).

† i. e. the Collector.

Zemindar's permission; and when a considerable number shall have been laid hold of you will please to send them hither under a guard

I am, etc,

H VERELST.

No 428.

MIDNAPORE

The 3rd December, 1768

To

RICHARD BECHER, Esq.,
Collector-General.

SIR,

Inclosed I transmit for your observation a statement of the Tushkees and Kistbundees which have been settled for the Midnapore and Jalleore Provinces for the Orissa year 1176, together with a particular account of the Tushkees of the Western Junguls.

The amount of the fines which the Zemindars may levy without an application to the Resident I have regulated as follows —

From Weavers	1 Rupee
From Ryots who are not rich enough to keep a plough	1½ "
From Ryots who keep one plough	3 "
" " " two "	6 " and so on

at the rate of Rs 3 per plough.

From Mohurirs, Pykes and Servants of the Zemindar according to custom and the ability of the offenders I hope that this regulation will meet with your approval, and I remain,

G VANSITTART

No 429

FORT WILLIAM.

The 12th December, 1768,

(Recd 22nd do)

To G. VANSITTART, Esq.,

Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

Enclosed we transmit your invoice and Manager's receipts for the Naval Stores you request to be supplied in your letter of the 9th instant.

We are, etc.,

H VERELST,
FRAS SYKES,
RICHD BECHER,
CHARLES FLOYER,
FRAS CHARLTON.

Edw, EDW. BABER,

Secretary

No 430.

FORT WILLIAM,
13th December, 1768

Invoice of Stores laden by Hon'ble Harry Verelst, Esq, President and Governor, and Council of Fort William, on board one boat, under the care of Chand Manjee, and Lawhur Mahamud Peon, bound to Midnapore Factory, and goes consigned to George Vansittart, Resident there, being on Account and risque of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England, trading to the East Indies.

Iron Bars—

	cts	qrs	lbs.		Rs.	As	P.	Rs.	As	P
98 Bars Wgt	39	3	18	@ 6-14-6 per cts.	275	10	0			

Europe Canvas—

4 Bolts	17-5-9 pr. bt	69	7	0		345	1	0
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Charges Merchandize—

Oil 2 seer @ 6-8 per md	0	5	3					
Boat Hire	14	0	9					
1 Dustock	1	10	0					
Cooly Hire	0	8	0					
1 Peon's Wages	..	..	5	6	6			21	14	6
								Currt. Rupees	366	15 6

Errors Excepted.

L. DARELL Junr.,

Sub-Accomptant.

No 431.

TO THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, ESQ.

MIDNAPORE,
20th December, 1769.

HON'BLE SIR,

Herewith you will receive an abstract of the Midnapore expenses for the month of November.

A great number of Chuars inhabiting the hills in our Western Jungles having, in conjunction with considerable bodies from the adjacent districts, invaded the Pergunnas of Burraboom and Gatseela, I have ordered Captain Forbes and Lieutenant Nun, with five Companies of Sepoys and two small field Guns, to reduce or expell them. Captain Forbes marched by the way of Gatseela, Lieutenant Nun by the way of Burraboom, and I flatter myself that they will speedily be able to effect the service they are gone upon

I am, etc.,

[G. VANSITTART].

No. 432.

MIDNAPORE,
12th January, 1769.

TO JAMES ALEXANDER, ESQ.,
Collector-General.

SIR,

Mr. Becher having informed me that he has delivered to you the Office of Collector-General, I herewith transmit you the Midnapore Treasury Account for the month of December, with a Bill on the Pay-Master-General for Current Rupees 11,100. The over-flowing of the Colleyhee Nalla in the month of October did so much mischief to the Bands in the Pergunna of Omercy that it will be necessary this year to give them a thorough repair in order to guard the Pergunna from the like mischief in future. I intend, therefore, if you have no objection to advance the Zemindars about 1,500 Rs. Poolbundy more than usual for that purpose.

I have been favoured with your Letter of the 9th Instant No. 2, but No. 1 is not yet come to hand.

I am, &c.,
[G. VANSITTART.]

No. 433.

CALCUTTA,
17th January, 1769.

TO G. VANSITTART, ESQ.

SIR,

I have received your Letter of the 12th instant and your Treasury Account for the month of December and from Mr. Peiarce, his Bill on the Mil. P. M. General for Curr. Rs. 11,100.

As you think an extraordinary advance to the Zemindars of the Purgunnah Omercy on a account Poolbundy a necessary service I have no [objection] to your indulging them with the sums you.. ..

No. 2 advised you of the arrival of of. ...[invoice] of Treasure of the 26th ulto, and the same.....wrote you with the Escort then return'd. In your next Treasury Account I wish you would.....the dates of your invoices and Bills.

I am, etc.,
JAM. ALEXANDER,
Collector-General.

No. 434.

MIDNAPORE,
24th January, 1769To JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq.,
Collector-General

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 17th, and will in future insert in the Treasury Accounts the dates of the Invoices and Bills, agreeable to your directions.

In my letter of the 25th November, I mentioned that I had sent a small Military Force to bring Futteabad district into better order. Its revenue was only Rupees 93-10-1 pies, and even thus the Zemindars never paid with regularity. They suffered their country to go almost entirely to ruin, and the neighbouring Pergunnas were much infested with the robberies of their Chuhars. To these Zemindars, therefore, I have granted Jagheers for their support, and removed them from the management of the District, and I have put it under the care of a man who I believe will apply himself diligently to the cultivation and improvement of it and who agrees that his rents shall next year be raised from Rupees 93-10-1 to Rupees 1000.

With my letter of the 25th of November, I forwarded a list of Perwannas I had granted to the 22nd of that month for the removal of salt from the collaries in these Districts. I now transmit a list of those which I have granted since and likewise a list of the Dustucks I had given to the 31st of last Month for transporting salt into the Bahar Province after the payment of the established duty.

I am, etc.,
[G VANSITTART]

No. 435

MIDNAPORE,
3rd February, 1769.To THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, Esqr.,
President and Governor &c Council of Fort William

Inclosed I have the honour to transmit you an Invoice of 127 Bales of the Hon'ble Company's Peice Goods which were dispatched from this Factory the 1st Instant.

As the Hon'ble Court of Directors have been pleased to order some coarse Pinascos at 4 Rs per piece and some coarse Gingham at 3 Rs per piece to be provided in their Investment for the ensuing year, and as there [are] no peices of those assortments in the Warehouse at Midnapore I request you will direct for Musters to be sent me from Calcutta.

I am, &c.,
[G VANSITTART]

No. 436.

FORT WILLIAM :
11th February, 1769

To MR GEORGE VANSITTART.

SIR,

I have it in command from the Hon'ble the President and Council to transmit you the accompanying extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter of the 16th March 1768, and copy of one to them from the Secretary to the Royal Society And to acquaint you as they are very desirous to have the intentions of the Company fully answered they particularly require you will circulate their notice to every person under your influence to exert your utmost endeavours to obtain the most accurate and careful observations in your power which you will please to transmit to the Board

No instruments have been yet received should any arrive in time they shall be forwarded to you I have the honour, etc ,

EDWARD BABER,
Secretary

No 437

Extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter dated 16th March, 1768

Para 165 The Royal Society having applied to us as by the enclosed Copy of their Secretarys Letter that observations may be made at our several Presidencies or other places in the East Indies of the next transit of the Planet Venus over the disc of the Sun which is expected to happen on the 3rd June 1769 and being desirous by all means of concerning in an affair of such importance to the advancement of Science, we thus early and earnestly recommend to you to direct all and every person in the service of the Company who are conversant in Astronomy, and to desire in our name by particular notice, or otherwise, all other persons whatsoever under your influence properly qualified for the purpose to exert themselves in making the most careful and accurate observations upon the said transit, and to deliver their Reports to you in writing to be transmitted to us at least in Duplicate by the earliest opportunities

A true extract,
JAMES IRWIN,
Sub-Secretary

No 438

BRITISH MUSEUM :
January 22nd, 1768

GENTLEMEN,

In obedience to the orders of the Royal Society, I take the liberty to apply to you in their name, and solicit your concurrence in an affair

of some importance to the advancement of science and the honor of this country. The next transit of the Planet of Venus over the disc of the Sun, which is expected on Jan 3rd 1769, will afford the only means of ascertaining some of the principal and hitherto unknown elements in Astronomy and of improving both Geography and Navigation. The first phenomenon of this kind ever taken notice of was observed above a century ago by an Englishman and the last which happened in 1761 excited the curiosity of most nations in Europe but on account of the war and the want or inexperience of observers the fruits expected from this observation and foretold by the great Dr T Lalley were but partly obtained. An opportunity of the same kind will again offer itself and as it is the last which for the present and succeeding generations will have for at least a hundred years to come it is to be hoped and indeed expected that an universal emulation will extend itself all over the Continent on so interesting an occasion. The honor of this Nation seems particularly concerned in not yielding the palm to their neighbours and the Royal Society intends to exert all its strength and influence in order to have their observations made with the greatest accuracy, and if possible in the most uniform and satisfactory manner in various parts of the British Dominions. The experience which they have had of the readiness of this potent Company to forward every great and national undertaking does not permit them to doubt of their taking a share in this. They, therefore hope that it will be early and earnestly recommended to such of the Company's Servants at Madras Bombay Bencoolen, or other places in the East Indies as have been accustomed to Astronomical observation to prepare for and exert themselves in this. As the phenomenon will be visible, at least during some part of it in all the Settlements of the Company, Mr Astronomer Royal has promised to send to the Hon'ble Board those directions which will appear to him the most useful in order to make the observation with the greatest precision and advantage. He desired me in the meanwhile to transmit to you a list of the instruments which would be necessary for that purpose in each place of observation, viz:

- 1 A reflecting telescope of two feet focus with an apparatus of smoked glasses
- 2 A pendulum clock
- 3 An Astronomical Quadrant of one foot radius at least or in lieu of it an equal altitude instrument

I have the honour to be with great respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

M MALY,

Secretary, R S

A true copy

JAMES IRWIN,

Sub-Secretary

MIDNAPORE

16th February, 1769.

TO JAMES ALEXANDER, ESQ.,
Collector-General.

SIR,

As the Pergunnas of the Western Jungles belonging to the Midnapore Province have been but lately subdued to our Government after a long state of independance and lawlessness, I think it would be very proper that I should take a journey round them in order to inform myself more particularly of their present state, to enquire upon the spot into any complaints which may be made to me, and to establish any regulations which may appear likely to contribute to the improvement and welfare of so large and so desolate a tract of country For these purposes, therefore, I intend setting out upon such a journey a few day's hence, and I beg to be favoured with your commands if you have any thing particular to recommend to my attention.

I am, Sir, &c,
 [G. VANSITTART].

P S. Inclosed are two Bills of Exchange which should have been sent with our January Treasury Account, viz From Mr. Marriott upon the Buxey for Rupees 833/- dated the 14th of January and from Mr Pearce upon the Military Pay-Master-General for Current Rupees 10,000, dated the 31st January.

 No 440.

FORT WILLIAM :
 20th February, 1769
 (Recd 24th do)

TO MR GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

We have received your letters of the 3rd and 11th instant.

As we have not any coarse Peniascoes or Ginghamms of the prices you mention, in the Ware House to send you for masters we desire you will make a few pieces of those Assortments, and send them to us for our Approbation

We are, etc ,
 H. VERELST,
 JOHN CARTIER,
 JAS ALEXANDER,
 CLAUD RUSSELL,
 THOS RUMBOLD,
 CHARLES FLOYER,
 FRAS CHARLTON.

Etd,

EDWARD BABER,
Secretary.

No. 441.

CALCUTTA :
21st February, 1769.

TO GEO. VANSITTART, ESQ.,

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 13th instant with your Treasury account for the month of January.

I am, etc.,
J. ALEXANDER.

No. 442.

CHATNA :
28th February, 1769.

TO THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, ESQ.,

HON'BLE SIR,

As very strong reports prevail that the Morattoes really intend to invade these Provinces, I request you will communicate to me any intelligence which you may receive upon the subject, and which may be of any importance for me to know, and that you will favour me early with your command how I should act. I do not imagine that these reports are by any means to be depended upon. But if authentick intelligence should hereafter arrive in confirmation of them, would you choose that I should enter into a negotiation with the Mohrbunge Raja and engage our protection for his support? I have reason to believe that he would be glad of such an opportunity to shake off the Moratta yoke, and the position of this country would in case of Moratta troubles render it extremely convenient to us.

I am, etc.,
[G. VANSITTART.]

P. S. I am at present engaged in a circuit round my Junguls, but purpose getting back to Midnapore by the middle of March.

No. 443.

MIDNAPORE :
29th March, 1769.

TO THE HON'BLE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL,

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,

I am informed by a French Gentleman, one Monsr : Aussant, who set out from here this morning for Mohunpore in the Province of Jallesore, that he is appointed to be Resident at that place on the part of the French Company for their Investment, and to receive his instructions directly from Chandernagore. I think it necessary to inform you hereof, as there has never been before any European on the part of the French fixed at Mohun-

pore, and likewise that all the assortments of white cloths of the Hon'ble Company's Investment is manufactured there, as it is probable the influence of a French Resident on the spot may be prejudiceable to the Company's Investment and also hereafter be the occasion of many disputes I therefore beg leave to refer the matter to your consideration, and request your orders whether he is to be allowed to remain there, or how I am to proceed. With respect, etc

I am, etc ,

[G. VANSITTART]

No 444

MIDNAPORE

1st April, 1769

TO JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq ,
Collector-General

SIR,

The 18th of March I returned from my Circuit round Western Junguls, and I should have informed you of it sooner had I not been prevented by a severe attack of a fever I mentioned formerly to the Collector-General that a considerable quantity of Salt is transported from the Moratta districts into the Bahar Province thro' these Junguls, and I was directed by him to levy on all such Salt the established Duty of 3 Sa Rs per cent Mads I find there are so many different roads into the Bahar Province, as well to the Westward of these Junguls as thro them that the Salt Merchants can easily find their way thither without paying the Duty inspite of any endeavours I may use to prevent them The putting a stop therefore to this illicit Trade must depend upon the Officers in those districts keeping a very good look out after whatever Salt may be brought there without being furnished with proper dustacks The confiscation of a small quantity would make the Merchants themselves desirous of paying the duty and receiving the proper dustacks, but in the mean while I believe the duty collected in these quarter's will amount to a very small sum

I am, etc ,

[G VANSITTART]

No 445

MIDNAPORE

6th April, 1769

TO THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, Esq ,
President and Governor etc , Council of Fort William

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,

I have been favoured with your commands of the 20th February, and, in conformity to your orders have herewith transmitted you musters of coarse Gingham and coarse Peniascoes The Merchants however demand for the former Rs 3 4 0 instead of Rs 3 for the latter Rupees 4 8 0 instead of Rs 4-0-0 They plead the advanced price of the Tusser of which these goods are made, and say that Ginghams at Rupees 3 and Peniascoes at 4 will

necessarily be extremely thin, it is true that the Tusser is at present upwards of 75 Rupees Per Cent dearer than it was two years ago, and it is to be apprehended that the Weavers will deliver the cloth very bad if the prices are fixed so low as Rs 3 and 4. However this matter may be settled as you may please to direct and I request your orders on the subject. Inclosed is a list of Investment which I propose, if it meets with your approbation, to provide this season at Midnapore, I beg to be favoured with your commands concerning it as soon as conveniently can be, that the Provision may be commenced without delay.

I am with respect etc ,

[G VANSITTART]

No 446

To G VANSITTART, Esq ,

CALCUTTA

6th April 1769

(Received 8th do).

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 1st instant informing me that you have finished your circuit round the Western Jungles, and shall be glad to have any observations worth communicating to me which may have occurred to you in this tour.

Regarding the means used by the merchants to evade the established duty of 30 Sicca Rupees on salt transported from the Moratta District into the Bahar Province, I confess I do not see any more eligible method than what you propose. I shall however mention this matter to the Board, and, should they approve of confiscating any of the salt not furnished with proper dastucks on its arrival in the Bahar Province, the necessary orders shall be issued, with which you shall be acquainted.

I am, etc ,

J ALEXANDER,

Cr General

No 447

MIDNAPORE

10th April 1769

To JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq ,

Collector-General

SIR,

Inclosed I transmit you the Midnapore Treasury Account for the month of March, together with the following Bills of Exchange —

Mr Pearce on the Military Pay-Master General Current	Rs	10,600
Mr Portsmouth on Ditto 28th February ..	,	5,000
Ditto on Ditto 31st March	,	2 000
Mr Vansittart on Messrs Vansittart, Darell, and Holland ..	,	50 000
		<hr/> 67,000

Je serai obligé si sans vous incommoder vous vouliez donner ordres a vos Serviteurs de me faire faire deux ou trois gargoulettes pour metre de l'eau de la même façon que les votres et peu de bon tabac pour fumer l'houcas, si vous me faitte le plaisir de me dire combien cela aura coute Je ferai remettre l'argent a votre Ecrivain : pardon du trouble que Je vous donne.

No. 449.

TO MR. G. VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

FORT WILLIAM.
10th April, 1769.
(Recd. 14th do.)

SIR,

We have received your letters of the 6th and 8th instant.

In the list of investments enclosed in this letter, we observe you propose an encrease. As we wish you would endeavour to improve the fabrick rather than encrease the quantity of goods, we recommend the former point to your particular attention, and desire you will confine yourself strictly to the Company's orders in the provision of the ensuing years investments without attempting any increase.

We are etc.,

JOHN CARTIER.
JAS. ALEXANDER.
CLAUDE RUSSELL.
CHARLES FLOYER.

You will receive the Export Warehouse Keeper's opinion as to the Musters of coarse Gingham and Piniaschoes.

I am,
J. C.

No. 450.

MIDNAPORE,
14th April, 1769.

TO THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, ESQ.,
President and Governor and Council, Fort William.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,

I have been favoured with your commands of the 10th Instant. My proposing an increase to the Investment ordered by the Company was in consequence of its being particularly recommended to me in your commands of the 28th September last. As to improving the Fabric, I have already endeavoured it as far as could be done by threats and promises to the Merchants, and by making large deductions in the prices, when the goods have been much inferior to the Musters; but I must confess I think my

weavers as possible to settle at Midnapore. What success I may meet with I will inform you hereafter. Inclosed I have the honour to transmit you the Statement and Cash Account of Midnapore Factory for the month of April and am &c.—

[G. VANSITTART.]

No. 454.

BEERCOOL.
10th May, 1769.

To JOHN CARTIER ESQ.
With the Abstract for April.

No. 455.

CALCUTTA :
10th May, 1769.

To GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQR.

SIR,

I am directed by Mr. Cartier to inform you that he has received your favour of the 3rd instant, and is extremely sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Portsmouth. He requests you will forward to him all such papers and drafts as you may find relative to his surveys.

I am,
WM. THACKERAY.*

No. 456.

FORT WILLIAM.
15th May, 1769.
(Recd. 19th do.)

To MR. GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We have received your letter dated the 8th of May, enclosing the accounts of your Factory for the month of April.

With respect to the musters of gingham and peniascoes, which you transmitted us sometime ago, we have had the opinion of the Export Warehouse Keeper upon them ; and, in consequence we recommend that you establish such a rate in the new assortment to be provided this year as will raise them in quality, within three letters of the articles hitherto provided, and which in the order of investment, are now distinguished by the names of gingham and peniascoes fine.

We are, etc.,
JAS. ALEXANDER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FLOYER.

Exd. W. L.

No. 457.

FORT WILLIAM:
1st June, 1769.
(Recd. 16th do.)

TO MR. GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

Enclosed we send you copies of two paragraphs of the last General Letter received from the Court of Directors, and we desire you will strictly comply with them.

We are, etc.,
JOHN CARTIER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
JAS. ALEXANDER,
CHARLES FLOYER.

Exd. E. B.

No. 458.

FORT WILLIAM:
2nd June, 1769.

TO MR. G. VANSITTART.

SIR,

We direct that upon receipt of this letter, you immediately order five Companies of Seapoys to march to the Cantonments at Gyretty* where, on their arrival, they will receive such further orders from us, as may be necessary.

We are, etc.,
JOHN CARTIER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FLOYER.

No. 459.

CALCUTTA:
2nd June, 1769.
(Recd. 9th do.)

TO GEO. VANSITTART, ESQ.

SIR,

I am directed by the Collector General to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 13th ulto., enclosing the Treasury Account of your Province for the month of April and a Bill of Exchange upon the P. Mr. G1,† for Curr Rs. 9,900.

I am, etc.,
J. HOLME, Junior.
(Deputy Collector-General)

* Ghireti to the South of Chandarnagar and Giridih as Price has it.

† Pay-Master General.

No 460.

5th June, 1769

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I have been favoured with your commands of the 2nd instant and have in consequence directed Captain Morgan with Ensign Nun with five companys of Sepoys to march immediately to the Cantonments at Gherethy and act agreeably to the orders which he will receive from you

[G VANSITTART]

No 461

FORT WILLIAM

17th June, 1769

To MR GEORGE VANSITTART,

Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

The pressing and increasing scarcity of specie, and the many difficulties and distresses the Merchants laboured under from this inconvenience having been strongly represented to us and our assistance to relieve them earnestly requested, we have been induced to propose to the Nabob and his Ministers the Establishment of a Gold Currency. They have accordingly acquiesced to our proposal, and established one on such a plan as, we hope will relieve these distresses, and prevent the fatal consequences that seemed to threaten the Country in general from this ruinous evil.

Enclosed we send you a Copy of the Advertisement that hath been published here, in order to carry this Plan into Execution within our Jurisdiction, and we desire the same may be made publick at your Residency likewise

We are, etc,

H VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
JAS ALEXANDER,
CHARLES FLOYER

Exd E B

No. 462

ADVERTISEMENT

FORT WILLIAM,

The 17th June, 1769

Whereas the prevailing and increasing scarcity of specie hath been greatly complained of and the many Difficulties and Distresses the Merchant hath laboured under from these inconveniences hath been represented to the Hon'ble the President and Council and their Assistance for a Relief from this ruinous Evil been earnestly requested, they have been pleased in order to obtain redress for this grievance and to remedy this evil, fully and particularly to set forth to the Nabob and his Ministers the distressed situation of this settlement and the country in general

In consequence of which representation his Excellency hath thought proper to establish throughout these Provinces a gold currency on the following Plan and Regulations

"That a Gold Mohur be struck of the fineness of the Ancient Delhi Mohur coin'd in the first ten years of the Reign of Mahomed Shah of the Standard of 23 carats $3\frac{1}{2}$ grs but to weigh seventeen Annas Sicca or 7 dwt. $23\frac{1}{2}$ grs Troy which shall be issued and received in all publick and private Disbursements and receipts whatever at 16 Sicca Rupees each Mohur this standard being found to be the most just and equitable proportional value between gold and silver That for the Convenience and Dispatch of Business this Coin shall be issued with Subdivisions of Halves Quarters, Eighthths and Sixteenthths each of which are to bear the same proportional value as the Mohur And that all the Gold delivered into the Mint be coined in the following Proportions" Supposing one Hundred of Mohurs a number not exceeding

"25 p s	25 in whole Mohurs
"Halves	18 — 36
"Quarters	18 — 72
"Eighthths	18 — 144
"Sixteenthths	21 — 336
"Mohurs	100 — 613 p s

"But if any person or persons be discovered in attempting to make a variation in the Establish'd value of the Mohur and its subdivisions or detected in clipping or melting it down or obstructing the Currency thereof by refusing to accept it in payment shall be punish'd with the utmost severity"

And as the scarcity of silver brought on the inconveniences which this new coinage is intended to remedy the Nabob has thought proper to prohibit the exportation of it from the 6 Provinces in consequence of orders he has received from his Majesty the King of Delhi for that purpose

In consequence of the establishment of this Gold Currency the Collections of the Hon'ble Company's Lands and all payments to their Treasury will be received indiscriminately in Gold or Silver, and a tender of payment in all money transactions both public and private shall be equally valid in the new gold coinage as in any specie of the Silver Rupees. As it is hoped many conveniences will result to Merchants and the publick in general from the foregoing plan The Honble the President and Council direct that it shall take place within their Jurisdiction from this day and that the Mint Master shall not refuse to receive any gold whatever for Assay in coinage and that he shall when applied to by any Merchant or others direct to be made the Assay of any gold brought to him for that purpose and every quantity Assayed shall have the seal of the Mint Master or Assay Master fixed upon it and a Certificate shall likewise be given under the hand of the Assay Master specifying the Assay that the proprietor of such gold may know at all times its real value and have it in his option to coin it or not, and for the encouragement and relief of the Merchant who shall have gold for coinage The Honble the President and Council have abolished in their Mints all duties on the gold coinage except one p cent to defray the expences of it to the Company.

Notice is therefore hereby given that any person or persons residing under the protection of the British Flag who shall in any respect deviate from the aforementioned Regulations and Restrictions, if natives they will be subjected to the Laws of the Country for such offence If Europeans they will immediately forfeit the Company's protection and be sent to England by the first opportunity.

By Order of the Honble the President and Council,

A true Copy.

JAMES IRWIN,

Sub-Secretary.

No 463

To G. VANSITTART, ESQ.

CALCUTTA,
20th June, 1769.
(Recd 22nd)

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 18th instant enclosing a bill of exchange upon the Paymaster General for Current Rs 10,500, and the Midnapore Treasury account for the Month of May.

I am etc,

JAS ALEXANDER,

Collector-General.

No 464.

To MR GEORGE VANSITTART,

Resident at Midnapore.

FORT WILLIAM.
6th July, 1769.
(Recd 8th do)

SIR,

As the General Books for last year are in great forwardness, we direct that you transmit to us those of your Factory by the 1st of September next and we also direct that the duplicate sett may be sent to us in time to be forwarded to Europe in December.

We are, etc,

H VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
JAS ALEXANDER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FLOYER

Exd. E B

Secretary.

MIDNAPORE,
7th July, 1764

To

THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, ESQR ,
Sec Council

I have been favoured with your commands of the 17th of June, and have issued orders in conformity thereto, for the currency of the Gold Coin in the Midnapore districts. Inclosed I transmit the Statement and Cash Account of Midnapore Factory for the month of June and likewise an Indent for Stationary which I request you will order to be complied with

[G VANSITTART]

No 466

To GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQR

CALCUTTA,
10th July, 1769
(Recd 19th do)

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 10th instant enclosing the Midnapore Treasury Accounts for the month of June, and the following bill of exchange —

1 from Mr Pearce on the Pay Mr General	13,500	0	0
3 from Mr Marriott on the Buxey ...	3 076	4	0
1 from Mr Vansittart on Messrs Darell & Holland ..	10 000	0	0

Amount Current Repees 26 576 4 0

The batta upon Sicca Rupees fell so long ago as the first of last month of which I do not judge it necessary to apprise you, it being a circumstance so generally known to all who have any correspondence or connexion with the Presidency

I am, etc ,
JAS ALEXANDER,
Collector-General

No 467

MIDNAPORE

11th July, 1769

TO JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq,
Collector-General.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 20th June. Herewith you will receive the Midnapore Treasury Account for the Month of June, with the following Bills of Exchange —

	Rs	As	P.
1 From Mr Pierce the Pay Master General for ...	13 500	0	0
1 From Mr Marriott on the Buxey . . .	3 076	4	0
1 From Mr. Vansittart on Messrs Darell & Holland	10 000	0	0
	<hr/>		
Amtt C. Rs	26,576	4	0

I shall be obliged to you if you will take care that due notice be sent me when the Putta on Siccá Rupees is to fall otherwise the Company will suffer loss by my continuing to receive the 8 and 9 Suns at 13 and 16 Per Cent

[G VANSITTART]

No 468

Extract from Consultation the 1st August 1769

The Collector General represents to the Board that he is apprehensive, if the Salt made on the Company's Lands is allowed to be removed from the Churs before the duties are collected, it will be impossible to prevent considerable quantity being smuggled and the Company being deprived of their revenues. He, therefore, proposes that the duties should be paid in at granting the Perwannabs for the removal of the salt from the Churs in the same manner as he understands is done by the country Government. He further represents that in his office as Custom Master he has had complaints made to him of the hardship should the further duty of 6 per cent be continued on salt sold in Calcutta over and above the duty of 30 Siccá Rupees per hundred maunds and requests the orders of the Board whether the said duty of 6 per cent shall be continued or not

The Board are of opinion that no further duty than 30 per cent shall be collected on salt, and approve that the duty be collected on the granting of the Perwannabs for the removal of the salt from the Churs

A true extract,
EDW. BAKER,
Secretary

A true copy
F HOLMR,
Deputy Collector

No 469.

To GEO. VANSITTART, Esq

CALCUTTA :

8th August, 1769.

(Recd. 13th do.)

SIR,

Upon inspecting your Treasury Account for the month of January last, the Presidency appears to be debited for the amount of two bills

	Rs.	As	P
1 drawn by Mr Pearce upon the M. P. M. Gl. ...	10,000	0	0
1 do by Mr. Marriott upon the Buxy ...	899	10	3
Current Rs. ...	10,899	10	3

As no notice is taken of these bills in your letter of the 13th February accompanying your Treasury Account of January, the Collector General concludes you have omitted to send them, and as no transfer can be made with the Military Paymaster and Buxy on this account, he therefore desires to have them as soon as possible.

I am, etc ,

F HOLME,

Deputy Collector

No 470.

FORT WILLIAM

The 11th August, 1769.

To RICHARD BECHER, Esq ,

Collector-General

SIR,

I am directed by the Hon'ble the President and Council to transmit you the accompanying paragraph of the Hon'ble Company's General letter, dated the 30th November last, relative to carrying on the Inland Trade in salt, and a copy of the Board's Resolution in consequence which they desire you to put into immediate execution

I have also the honour to enclose you an extract of the 166th paragraph of the same letter, and am further directed to desire you would draw out and lay before the Board as soon after the first of next September as you conveniently can an account for the nett collection under your charge from the 1st September last, 1767 to the 1st September 1768 specifying disbursement for each month separately and distinctly.

I am, etc ,

(Sd). EDW. BAKER,

Secretary

A true copy

HOLME, Junior,

Deputy Collector.

No 471

FORT WILLIAM
14th August, 1769
(Recd 17th do)

TO MR GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We have received your letter of the 9th instant with the several papers enclosed, and have ordered your indent to be complied with in every article except arms, which we cannot supply you with at present

We are, etc ,
H VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
JAS ALEXANDER,
CLAUD RUSSELL

Exd E. B ,
Secretary.

No 472

FORT WILLIAM .
17th August, 1769
Sect. Dept.
(Recd. 23rd do)

TO MR GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

Having thought proper to withdraw the indulgence we granted to the French in the year 1765 to have Sepoys at their several subordinates, and having received assurances from the Directeur and Council of Chandernagore that they had in consequence ordered them to be reduced, we desire you will keep a watchful eye over them at your Factory, and give us immediate information if they should attempt to elude our Resolutions.

We are, etc ,
H. VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
JAS ALEXANDER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FLOYER

Exd E. B ,
Secretary

FORT WILLIAM
22nd August, 1769
(Recd 25th do).

TO MR GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Madnapore

SIR,

We are to inform you that we this day resolved on the following regulations regarding the Pergunnah Sepoys, and that we rely on you to see them strictly complied with by those at your Factory

"They are to receive their full pay without any deductions whatever

"They are not to receive any Batta and the Company are to be at the expence of their cloathing

"The officers are to receive off reckonings untill the first of October, but from that time they are not to draw for any more nor will they be entitled to any after that period "

We shall direct the cloathing for the Pergunnah Sepoys to be made up at the Presidency, and you are to apply to us at the commencement of the new year for what will be wanted by those at your Factory

We are, etc ,

H VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER
RICHARD SMITH,
JAS ALEXANDER,
CLAUD RUSSELL

Exc E B,

Secretary

No 474

CALCUTTA
2nd September, 1769
(Recd 3ra' do)

TO GEO VANSITTART, ESQ

SIR,

I have receiv'd your letters of the 2nd and 13th ulto, the former enclosing an invoice of treasure amounting to a lack sicca weight, which imported here the 29th of that month The escort which accompanied it was returned the 31st Mr Holme acquaints me he has received your bills for the month of January, viz —

1 dated the 14th of that month for S Rs 833 from Mr. Marriott upon the Baxy.

1 dated the 31st do. from Mr. Pearce upon the M. P. M Gl for Ct Rs 10,000

I am, etc ,

JAS ALEXANDER,
Collector-General

MIDNAPORE

4th September, 1769.

TO THE HON'BLE HARRY VERELST, Esq.,
President and Governor and Council

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,

I have been favoured with your commands of the 14th, 17th and 22nd of August. The greatest part of the Seapoys which were stationed with Monsr Ausant the French Resident at Moohunpore are now removed, but he has still five with him

Your orders relative to the Seapoys belonging to this Factory have been issued and shall be strictly obeyed, I take the Liberty however of representing to you that in the Western Junguls dependant on Midnapore provisions are in general so dear that it will sometime be impossible for the Seapoys on that Service to subsist without their Batta unless by contribution from the Zemindars, which would open a door for many irregularities and unavoidably occasion a loss in the Revenue, at the same time the extreme unhealthiness of that station which they never fail severely to experience might be urged as an additional argument for granting them some indulgence, and as there is seldom above one Company on Command there, the expence would scarcely be more than that of the Clothing I beg leave also to submit it to your consideration whether the long standing and old services of this Battalion be not a plea in its behalf to prevent it from being put upon the same footing with those which have been lately raised expressly for the Pergunna Service

I am, etc ,
 [G VANSITTART]

No 476

MIDNAPORE

12th September, 1769

TO JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq.,
Collector-General

SIR,

The Orissa Year 1776 being now concluded, I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Company's Revenue for the Midnapore and Jalesore Provinces has been completely collected without any Balance Inclosed is an Invoice of a Lack of Rupees Sicca with which will be dispatched tomorrow under the charge of Havildar Yar Cawn and 8 Seapoys

[G VANSITTART]

FORT WILLIAM :
14th September, 1769.
(Recd. 20th do.)

TO MR. GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We have received your letters of the 3rd and 12th of September.

As the inconveniences of making a distinction in the pay of any troops from that of the Corps, to which they belong have been frequently experienced. We are determined not to permit any precedent that may possibly bring upon us the like trouble ; therefore the late orders for cutting off a batta from the Purgunnah Seapoys are strictly and universally to be observed.

We are, etc.,

H. VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
JAS. ALEXANDER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FLOYER.

Exc'd. H. L.
A. Secretary.

No. 478.

MIDNAPORE :
18th September, 1769.

TO JAMES ALEXANDER, ESQ.,
Collector-General.

SIR,

Inclosed you will receive the Midnapore Treasury Account for August with the following Bills of Exchange :—

	Rs.	As.	P.
Mr. Peiarce on the Pay-Master-General dated 31st for Current ...	10,000	0	0
Mr. Vansittart on Messrs. Darell and Holland dated 31st for Current...	10,000	0	0
Mr. Marriott on the Buxey for Ct. Rs. 904-13-0 dated 31st July ...	977	3	0
Mr. Marriott on Mr. Middleton dated 17th August ...	4,440	0	0
Ditto on Mr. Price dated 21st do. ...	3,330	0	0
Ditto on do. dated 1st September ...	1,110	0	0
Current Rs. ...	30,157	3	0

Inclosed are also a list of the Pergunna servants employed from March to August and on account of the collection of Revenue and charges for the Orissa Year 1176.

I am, etc.,
[G. VANSITTART.]

No. 479.

CALCUTTA :
19th September, 1769,
(Recd 21st do.)

TO GEO. VANSITTART, ESQ.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 12th instant with an invoice of a lack of rupees sicca weight and shall advise you on its arrival here.

I am extremely glad to find you have been so successful in completing the collection of the Revenues under your care. I depend upon your attention in settling the tushkees for the present year, should you not already have accomplished this business, and I beg to have your accounts of them as soon as you conveniently can.

I am, etc.,
JAS. ALEXANDER,
Collector-General.

No. 480.

ACCOMPTANT'S OFFICE,
26th September, 1769,
(Recd. 27th do.)

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ.

SIR,

I shall be much obliged to you if you will send me by the return of the Dawks, an Abstract of the Monthly Charges of your Factory, from 1st August, 1768 to the 31st July 1769, in order if possible to be sent Home by the first ship.

I am, etc.,
L. DARELL, Junior,
Sub-Accompt.

No. 481.

CALCUTTA :
26th September, 1769.
(Recd. 27th do.)

TO GEO. VANSITTART, ESQ.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 18th inst., with your Treasury Account for the month of August, and bills of exchange for current Rs. 30,157-3-0 also a list of Purgunnah Servants employed from March to August, and an account of revenues collected for the Orissa 1176 and charges thereon.

I am, etc.,
JAS. ALEXANDER,
Collector-General.

No. 482.

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq.

CALCUTTA :
6th October, 1769.
(Recd. 14th do.)

SIR,

The Treasure 17 chests agreeable to your invoice of the 10th September last having arrived here yesterday, I herewith return the escort which accompanied it, and am, etc.,

JAS. ALEXANDER,
Collector-General.

No 483.

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq.

CALCUTTA :
9th October, 1769.
(Recd. 14th do.)

SIR,

This serves to advise you that the Treasure 17 Chests agreeable to your invoice of the 12th ulto arrived here the 5th inst., and the following day the escort which accompanied it was return'd.

I am etc.,
JAS. ALEXANDER,
Collector-General.

No. 484.

*Extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter, under date 17th
March, 1769*

Para 31. We would have you give such Encouragement to the Cultivation of the Mulberry Plant as to make it more General thro' the Bengal Provinces. One obvious means occurs for this purpose, which is to allow such a deduction in the Rents of the Lands that are planted with this Shrub, as a Bounty for raising it, as will make it a more profitable Culture than that of any other article. Many other expedients may be found to promote and extend this Branch of the Investment, which must be left to your further Enquiries and Experience and which may certainly be effected, since the produce of Raw Silk seems at present confined to particular spots ; tho' it is evident that almost any soil or air will agree both with the cultivation of the Mulberry Plant and breeding of Worms which we strongly enjoin you to attend to.

Para 93. But we do not hereby confine our Requisition to the charges of the Bahar Collections, for with regard to all the other Revenues we expect to receive every year a distinct state of each whereby we may be enabled to see not only the amount of the sums received, and the arrears

due thereon, but the particulars of the Charges at the Durbar, and other places of Collection.

A true Extract.
(Signed) EDWARD BABER,
Secretary.

A True Copy.
F. HOLME,
Deputy-Collector.

No. 485.

TO MR. GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

FORT WILLIAM :
10th October, 1769.
(Recd. 14th do.)

SIR,

Enclosed we transmit you copies of the 28th, 29th, and 34th paragraphs of the Company's General Letter dated the 17th March last, and desire that the strictest obedience and attention may be paid to every part of the orders they contain.

We are, etc.,
H. VERELST.
JOHN CARTIER.
RICHARD SMITH.
JAS. ALEXANDER.

Exd. E. B.,
Secretary.

ENCLOSURE.

Extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter under date the 17th March, 1769.—

Para 28. Our Warehousekeeper also informs us that he has found some Bales marked Baftaes which proved to be Emmerties, and others marked G U R, of eighteen yards which measured but fifteen yards which we apprehend has been occasion'd by packing them into wrong Bales.—

Para 29. If these several Complaints are not remedied they will bring the goods from those Factories into great disrepute here, and occasion a great Loss to us, by having goods returned or making large allowances to the Buyers. We therefore most earnestly enjoin you to give the strictest orders to those who are interested to measure or pack the goods, to be more circumspect to prevent the same in future.

Para 94. As the period of your General Books is too distant from the time of your Dispatches for us to receive from them the requisite information in respect to the state of your charges you did well in sending to us an Abstract of the General Monthly Expences of your Presidency, which you must continue to supply us with every year. But we are at a Loss to account for the difference we find in those abstracts from some of your Subsidiary Books. The Buxey's in particular do not agree with your abstract of his disbursements, at least we are not enabled to judge what part is omitted in forming the monthly Totals. This uncertainty as to the Exactness of your General Abstracts you must remove by explaining to us, if they are to be considered as rough statements only or are so carefully formed by the respective Officers that proper dependence may be placed on them.

A true Extract.

JAMES IRWIN,

Sub-Secretary.

No. 486.

To MR. GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

FORT WILLIAM:
11th October, 1769.
(Recd. 14th do.)

SIR,

We desire that you immediately prepare and transmit to us an account of the nett charges of your Factory according to the form prescribed in the 59th paragraph of the Company's General Letter under date the 20th November 1767, and which was enclosed for your information in our letter of the 28th of July 1768.

This account is to be drawn out from the 1st of August 1768 to the 31st July 1769, and you are to observe it as an invariable rule in future to transmit to us such an account annually commencing and ending with the month above mentioned and we particularly enjoin you to furnish us with it by the 20th August in order that it may be transmitted to Europe by the first ship that sails from hence.

We are etc.,

H. VERELST.
JOHN CARTIER.
RICHARD SMITH.
JAS. ALEXANDER.

Exd. J. J.,

No. 487.

TO JAMES ALEXANDER, Esq.,
Collector-General.

CALCUTTA :
12th October, 1769.

SIR,

Herewith you will receive the Midnapore Treasury Account for the month of September with two Bills of Exchange :—

Mr. Pearce's on the Pay-Master-General for Current Rupees	...	10,800
Gunga Narayn's on Davy Churn Metre for	...	25,000
Amount to C. Rs.		35,800

[G. VANSITTART.]

No. 488.

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq.

CALCUTTA :
20th October, 1769.
(Recd. 22nd do.)

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 12th instant with your Treasury Account for the month of September and bills of exchange for Ct. Rs. 35,800.

I herewith transmit you copy of an extract of paras 31 and 93 of the Hon'ble Company's General Letter, under date 17th March, 1769, whence you will observe how extremely solicitous they are that every possible encouragement should be given to the cultivation of the mulberry plant in the Bengal Province. The obvious means therein propos'd I desire may be immediately attended to, and if in the course of your enquiries any other expedient occurs I wish to be acquainted with it. You will also be pleased to give the necessary attention to para 93.

I am etc.,

JAS. ALEXANDER,
Collector-General.

ENCLOSURE.

Extract from the Hon'ble Company's General Letter under date 17th March 1769.—

Para 31. We would have you give such encouragement to the Cultivation of the Mulberry plant as to make it more general thro' the

Bengal Province ; one obvious means occurs for this purpose, which is to allow such a deduction in the Rents of the Lands that are planted with this shrub as a bounty for raising it, as will make it a more profitable culture than that of any other article. Many other expedients may be found to promote and extend this branch of the Investment, which must be left to your further Enquiries and Experience and which may certainly be effected, since the produce of Raw Silk seems at present confined to particular spots, tho' it is evident that almost any soil or air will agree both with cultivation of the Mulberry plant and Breeding of Worms, which we strongly enjoin you to attend to

Para 93 But we do not hereby confine our requisition to the Charges of the Bahar Collections, for with regard to all the other Revenues we expect to receive every year a distinct State of each whereby we may be enabled to see not only the amount of the Sums received and the arrears due thereon but also the particulars of the charges at the Durbar and other places of collection

(Signed) EDWARD BABER,

Secretary

A True Extract

A true Copy

F. HOLME,

Deputy Collector.

No 489

TO JAMES ALEXANDER, ESQ.,

Collector-General

FORT WILLIAM.

23rd October, 1769

SIR,

The alarming accounts which the Hon^{ble} the President and Council have heard of the distress of the country for want of grain from the great drought that has prevailed, and the melancholy prospect that this distress will increase, have determined them to take every measure in their power to provide against the fatal consequences that are to be apprehended. None can be more fatal than monopolies of grain at such a juncture, and it is greatly to be feared they will be aimed at. I have, therefore, the commands of the Hon^{ble} the President and Council to acquaint you that they particularly recommend to you to exert your utmost endeavours to detect and prevent as much as lies in your power so fatal a measure

With this prospect before their eyes, they behold with much concern the distress that the poor inhabitants must be involved in, and they are anxious to devise means to afford them every possible relief under this distressful calamity. They do therefore earnestly desire that you will give every encouragement in your power to the ryotts to cultivate pala, gram, barley, and every sort of grain that can be raised in the dry season, and in

short to take every measure they can think of to supply the want of rice, and that they may judge will contribute to relieve the necessities of the Poor

I am, etc ,

EDWARD BABER,
Secretary

A true Copy,
F HOLME
Deputy Collector

[In pencil Copied and Sent to the Famine Committee 26 April '67 *]

No 490

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ

CALCUTTA,
24th October, 1769
(Recd 25th do)

SIR,

As I shall deliver over charge of the Collector General's Office the first of next month to Mr Russell whom the Board have thought proper to order to succeed me, you will therefore from that time be pleased to correspond with that gentleman regarding such part of the business of the Collector General's Department as comes within your Province

I am, etc ,
JAS ALEXANDER,
Collector-General

No 491

TO JAMES ALEXANDER, ESQ

CALCUTTA,
25th October, 1769

SIR,

A considerable number of Horses brought chiefly from the Northern Province of Hindoostan pass every year for sale by the way of Midnapore into the Maratta districts During the Nabob's Government a duty (Murga) was collected on the valuation of the Horses $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent from Mussulman dealers and 5 per cent from Hindoo dealers, but since the cession of Midnapore to the Company this duty has been discontinued although no Horses are allowed to pass without Dastucks being first granted I beg to be favoured with your opinion whether Mussulman or Hindoo might not with propriety be established It would make some small addition to the Company's Revenue and it does not occur to me that any inconvenience would result from it

I have been favoured with your letter of the 20th and will strictly attend to the Hon'ble Company's Commands. Indeed it has already been my particular care, as mentioned in several of my letters to the Coll: General to give every encouragement to the cultivation of the Mulberry.

[G. VANSITTART.]

No. 492.

FORT WILLIAM,
30th October, 1769.
(Recd. 1st Nov.)

TO MR. GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

Enclosed we transmit you a list of investment ordered by the Court of Directors to be provided at your Factory for the year 1770 which we desire may be particularly attended to, and strictly complied with.

We are etc,
H. VERELST,
JOHN CARTIER,
RICHARD SMITH,
JAS. ALEXANDER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
THOS' RUMBOLD,
H. HARE.

Exd. E. B.,
Secretary.

No. 493.

MIDNAPORE,
31st October, 1769.

TO
The Governor & Council.

HON'BLE SIR & SIRS,

I have been favoured with your commands of the 10th instant, and I will pay strict attention to them, and I have herewith the honour to transmit you an account of the Expences at Midnapore from the first of AUGUST 1768 to the 31st of JULY 1769.

Inclosed is an Indent for fifty Maunds of Iron and five of Wood Oil for the use of Midnapore Factory: I beg the favour of you to order it to be complied with.

I am &c.,
[G. VANSITTART.]

CALCUTTA,
31st October, 1769

TO GEORGE VANSITTART ESQ

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 25th instant, and have represented to the Board your proposal of levying a duty on the dealers passing with horses by Midnapore into the Maratta districts which, as it has not their approbation you will therefore decline

The enclos'd copy of a letter from the President and Council I desire may have your strictest attention, and that your utmost endeavours be exerted to prevent the distress which those Salutary measures are calculated to relieve

I am, etc,
JAS ALEXANDER

No 495.

TO THE HON'BLE JOHN CARTIER, ESQ,
Governor & President etc, Council of Fort William.

HON'BLE SIR & GENTLEMEN.

The Hon'ble Company in their General Letter per the Lapwing dated 20th June 1769, direct that we should send them with every Quick Stock Account a Statement of their Dead Stock, agreeable to the following extract of their 59th Paragraph "We hereby direct that you send us with every Quick Stock Account a separate state of Fortifications and Buildings at the Factories as well as at Fort William and such other articles of Debt Charges etc as shall have been omitted in your statements, in order that we may be supplied with every material information relative to the General State of your Presidency and Subordinates"

I hereby conceive that every Subordinate should henceforward send monthly two statements to the Presidency, one of them, to contain their Quick Stock and the other to contain the amount of the Dead Stock, together with such other articles of Debts and Charges not inserted in their statement of Quick Stock

As the statements from most of the Factories that have been sent monthly to the Presidency are not confined to Quick Stock only, agreeable to the directions in the Hon'ble Company's General Letter dated 16th March 1768, I humbly request that you will give orders that their Quick Stock Accounts be Debited and Credited for the following Articles—

To be Debited for

The Ballance of Cash and Treasure, Bullion (when such be) according to the real value, goods and stores remaining for sale, valued at Invoice price, goods remaining in the warehouse, intended for this Presidency

To be Credited for

All debts owing by the Company, distinguishing under the different heads, the nature of them, for money borrowed at interest with the interest due thereon For goods delivered in by the Merchants and valued in the

In their way to Europe, valued at the Debit of this. For money owing real cost. Goods Debts owing to the on any other account whatsoever. Company.

The Ballance is the net value of the Stock in trade and is generally called Quick Stock. If it should happen that at or near the close of the account any money or goods are received from or sent to, any part of India, a proper remark must be made at the bottom with the name of the place and value of such goods or money and whether included in the Account.

The Appurtenances of Forts, Buildings and Works as likewise Ordnance or Military Stores issued for service to be included in the statement of Dead Stock

But in order to shew more clearly in what method the statements ought to be drawn out, I have agreeable to your directions formed separate statements of Quick and Dead Stock taken from the ballance sheet in the books from the following factories.

Patna Factory, Cossimbazar Factory, Midnapore Factory, Dacca Factory, Chittagong Factory which statements I do myself the honor of laying before you

I am etc,

(Signed) L DARELL, JR,

Sub-Accomptant.

A true copy,

W. WYNNE,

Secretary.

No 496

CALCUTTA,

22nd November, 1769.

(Recd 24th do)

To GEORGE VANSITTART, Esq.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 14th with the accounts and bill mentioned to be enclosed, and am etc

CLAUD RUSSELL,

Collector, General

No 497.

FORT WILLIAM,

8th December, 1769

To MR GEORGE VANSITTART,

Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

Having thought proper to curtail the Investment for the ensuing year we have limited the amount to be provided at your Factory to 100,000 rupees, and we desire that the goods may consist of those most in demand in Europe, and which are particularly required by the Court of Directors

in the list of Investment we transmitted to you in our letter of the 30th October.

We are, etc.,
JOHN CARTIER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FLOYER,
H. HARE.

No. 498.

FORT WILLIAM :
12th December, 1769.
(Recd. 15th do.)

TO MR. GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

Enclosed we send you an invoice of Stores for the use of your Factory.

We are, etc.,
JOHN CARTIER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
THOS. RUMBOLD,
CHARLES FLOYER,
H. HARE,
JOSEPH JEEYLL.

Exd. E. B.,
Secretary.

No. 499.

MIDNAPORE :
14th December, 1769.

TO CLAUD RUSSELL, ESQ.,
Collector-General.

SIR,

Herewith you will receive the Midnapore Treasury Account for the month of November, and an Invoice of a Lack of Rupees Sicca Weight, which were yesterday dispatched under the care of a Havildar and eight Seapoys.

The Chuars inhabiting the hills between the Pergunnas of Gatseela and Burraboom having lately been guilty of great disturbances in these districts, I have sent Lieut. Nunn with three Company's of Seapoys to reduce them, which I imagine he will speedily be able to effect, though the neighbouring Chuars of Patcheat, Patcombe and Singboom having joined to assist them.

I am &c.,
[G. VANSITTART.]

P. S. With the Treasury Account are two Bills of Exchange dated the 30th of November one from Mr. Peiarce upon the Military Pay Master General for C. Rs. 10,700/- and one from Mr. Vansittart upon Messrs. Darell and Holland for Current Rupees 10,000/-.

No 500.

MIDNAPORE.

16th December, 1769.

TO JOHN CARTIER, ESQ

DEAR SIR,

By a letter which I have received from Lient. Rooke I find that he intends remaining in the country and returning to Midnapore. We shall then have five Officers, and we have quarters only for four at the most. I request to know, therefore, whether you would choose that I should build any new quarters, or whether it would be more agreeable to you to order away one of our Officers, on a presumption that four may be sufficient for the care of a Pergunna Battalion —

You may remember what passed between Mr. Verelst and Mr. Graham and me on the subject of Colonel Sempell's appointment. I apprehend that Mr. Verelst has not remembered to give him the instructions he purposed, at least I have never received any notice of it, as he told me I should.

I have as yet heard nothing from the Kerpooy Gomastah but general complaints of Numbers of Weavers having deserted those districts and fled to Midnapore. He has neither forwarded to me a list of their names nor sent any body to carry on any business with them on his part, or to collect the Balances which may be due from them, yet something is necessary to be done very speedily, or they will disperse themselves about the Country or retire into the Moratta dominions, and be no more to be found as to balances. Almost all who have come hither have so much the appearance of poverty that I much doubt if any thing material can be collected otherwise than gradually by the means of further advances, and in the present scarcity of money I know not where they will get further advances unless from the Company. The numbers who have fled hither from different parts is very considerable, between 4 & 500, although no manner of encouragement has been given them; they complain bitterly against the Kerpooy Gomastah with what justice I cannot pretend to say, but I think the most advisable method would be that a Gomastah should be sent from Calcutta independent of him, with orders to settle their former accounts and carry on any further business which you may deem suitable to the present State of the Company's finances.

You are yourself however the best judge, I shall readily submit my opinion to your's, and remain with real esteem.—etc ,

[G VANSITTART]

No 501.

CALCUTTA,

19th December, 1769.

(Recd. 21st do.)

TO MR. GEO. VANSITTART,

Resident at Mulnapore.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 14th with November Treasury Account, also the bills mentioned to be enclosed.

I hope Lieut Nun's detachment will effect the purpose of reducing the troublesome Chuars,

I am, etc ,
 CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General

No 502

MIDNAPORE,
 20th December, 1769

TO THE HON'BLE VERELST, ESQ

HON'BLE SIR,

Herewith you will receive an abstract of the Midnapore Expences for the month of November

A great number of Chuars inhabiting the hills in our Western Jungles having in conjunction with considerable bodies from the adjacent districts invaded the Pergunnas of Burraboom and Gatseela, I have ordered Captain Forbes and Lieut Nun with five Companies of Seapoys and two small field guns to reduce or expell them Captain Forbes marched by the way of Gatseela, Lieut Nun by the way of Burraboom and I flatter myself that they will speedily be able to effect the service they are gone upon

I am, etc ,
 [G. VANSITTART].

No 503.

MIDNAPORE,
 24th December, 1769

TO CLAUD RUSSELL, ESQ ,
Collector-General.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 9th The great want of rain which the country has this year laboured under puts it out of my power to settle our Tushbees on as advantageous terms as last year. The Zemindars of Midnapore Province have delivered a list of losses to the amount of Alla Sicca Rupees 130,000 and those of Jallesore to the amount of 40,000, and they are ready to submit to any punishment, they say, if upon scrutiny, they should be found to have exaggerated. Some Hircarrahs, who have been sent through the Pergunnas to inspect into the State of them as well as could be done in a cursory manner, make the losses amount according to their computation to between 60 & 70,000 Rupees in the Paddy grounds, only exclusive of what have been sustained in the more valuable articles, and the unusually high price of Rice, which is at present only 22 Seer at Midnapore notwithstanding our embargo, adds weight to their information. Indeed by every account which I have been able to procure the losses have really been very considerable. Upon the whole, therefore, I flatter myself you will approve of the following terms, Tegavy to be

lent this year to the same amount as last, but the interest to be collected, the amount of the Tushkees this year to be Alla Sicca Rupees 7,093-10-1 less than last year, and the collection of 27,000 Rupees to be deferred for the present and made with the next year's rents. The particulars you will be informed of by the inclosed Papers No 1. Tushkees of Midnapore and Jalesore, No 2 Particulars of the Tushkees of the Western Junguls, No 3. Moncoof or Deferred till next year, No 4 Kistbundy. I have hitherto always made a point of realizing whatever revenue has been settled, and I flatter myself that this adjustment may also be realized, but I think it is the utmost which the Zemindars will be able to afford, they will themselves be obliged to make much larger allowances to the Ryots, and it was not without very great difficulty that they have been brought to agree to it.

In my address of the 14th I acquainted you of the disturbances of the Chuars in our Western Junguls. I have since received advice of a body of 5 or 6000 of them having made an irruption into Gaietela and obliged the Zemindar with a small Party of our Seapoys to retire to the Fort of Ransing-gurr. I have ordered Captain Forbes therefore against them with two more Companies of Seapoys, whilst Lieut Nun is engaged with those at Barraboom. Lieut Nun has destroyed some of their retreats, and driven them into the hills with considerable loss, but they make a pretty stout resistance; in one of his engagements with them he had four Seapoys killed and seven wounded.

I am, Sir,
[G VANSITTART]

No 504

MIDNAPORE,
3rd January, 1770.

TO CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq ,

DEAR SIR,

Inclosed I send for your perusal a letter which I have received from Captain Forbes, he desires me to apply to the board on the subject of Batta for our Midnapore Battalion, but I have no right to trouble them with any further application after their reply to that which I made them in September, at the same time I am well convinced that the seapoys, when scrambling in our junguls, are well deserving of some consideration and indeed can scarcely subsist without it. Mr Verelst and General Smith have told me that they thought it really necessary I should make them some equivalent in the contingency. This is a very irregular way, but perhaps it may be better than that either the Board should make particular exceptions to a general rule or the Seapoys be involved in real distress, or the Zamindars be loaded with contributions which they cannot afford. Now, as you are both Collector-General and Military Paymaster, I should be glad to know your opinion, and if you do not object I will allow half Batta to be drawn among the contingencies for the Seapoys who are engaged under Captain Forbes, and Lieutenant Nun in scrambling amongst our Jungul hills, but not to any of those who are at fixed stations. Captain Forbes has cleared his side of the hills and is now on his march towards Lieutenant Nun.

When will you send me my Maps? When will you write me an answer as Collector-General concerning our Tushkees that it may be absolutely and finally adjusted?

[G VANSITTART]

No 505

TO CAPTAIN FORBES

MIDNAPORE,
5th January, 1770.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of 26th and 28th, I wish with all my heart you may be able to lay hold of Bang Sing and hang him up for an example. Some such severities are very necessary. I shall be glad to see both Kirpasindoo and Govindram. How far the latter may be any acts of oppression have been the cause of these disturbances I cannot pretend to say, but I do not imagine he has any way promoted them designedly. I have a notion the old Tahsildar is not altogether firm in his integrity. I have, therefore, ordered him to Midnapore, and have sent another man in his room.

Boroo Cawn I think a very good man to be left at Haldypocur. Give him orders when you return to act under the command of the Gatsela Tahsildar. I would rather you should leave any other Subadar at Burra-boom than Buggonant. I do not like to trust him without an Officer. He is apt to think himself too great a man and be troublesome.

[G. VANSITTART]

No 506

TO THE HON'BLE JOHN CARTIER, ESQR,

President and Governor and Council of Fort William.

MIDNAPORE,
6th January, 1770

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,

As there are at present six Officers appointed to the Battalion of Pergunna Seapoys which is stationed at this Factory, Captain Forbes, Lieutenant Goodyer, Lieutenant Rooke, Lieutenant Nun, Lieutenant Bateman, I have the liberty of representing to you that here are quarters only for the accommodation of four. . . and request your permission, therefore, if it be necessary for such a number of Officers to remain here, that I may build a Bungalow or house for the accommodation of the other two.

I am, etc.
[G. VANSITTART.]

No 507.

MIDNAPORE,
6th January, 1770.

TO THE HON'BLE JOHN CARTIER, ESQR.

DEAR SIR,

I did myself the pleasure of addressing you the 16th of last month concerning the number of Officers at this Factory, but as I have not been favoured with any reply, and as Lieut. Burke has been since appointed in addition to those who were before stationed here, I conclude that you do not intend to remove any of them. I have, therefore, addressed the Board that I may be regularly authorised to build some additional quarters, perhaps, however, my not having been favoured with a reply may have been owing only to the hurry of business in which I am sensible you are involved, and it may be agreeable to you to remove two of the Gentlemen in which case the building of new quarters and of course my application to the Board would be needless. I have taken the liberty, therefore, to inclose my letter to you, and request the favour of you either to deliver it or not as may be most proper. Excuse my giving you this trouble: accept of my congratulations on your accession to the Government and believe me with real esteem..... I am &c.....

[G. VANSITTART]

NB—Lieut: Burke has not yet joined the Battalion, Lieut. Nun joined it in July 1768, and Lieuts. Goodyer and Bateman in September 1769.

No 508.

MIDNAPORE,
7th January, 1770.TO CLAUD RUSSELL, ESQR.,
Collector-General

SIR,

I was directed last year by Mr. Becher and Mr. Alexander to grant to any Merchants who might apply to me perwanas for carrying Salt from the Collaries in these districts to Calcutta. The 30 per cent duty was to be collected after its arrival at Balleo Creek, and no duties were to be demanded in the way but those specified in the inclosed account of this regulation. I caused proper notice to be given, and I granted Perwanas accordingly; but now some of the Merchants have complained to me that their boats are stopped at Rangafulla Creek, and a duty of 30 per cent demanded there. I have thought it necessary, therefore, to represent this matter to you. I know not whether any new regulations have been established, or whether this is merely an abuse of the Chokeydar, but I should be glad to receive your orders upon the subject that I may act conformably to them in the Midnapore Districts.

I am, etc.,
[G. VANSITTART]

To LIEUT NUN.

MIDNAPORE,
8th January, 1770.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letters of the 16th, 20th and 28th dated, and this instant that of the 31st is arrived I was well pleased to hear of the distraction you had made amongst the Chuars and was convinced it would soon produce a good effect The appointment of Loll Sing and the Mutchulcis which you have caused to be executed I entirely approve, but what is to become of Tirbooban Sing, I should be glad if he was delivered up to you and brought to Midnapore, both for fear of his raising fresh commotions and that his fate might serve as a warning to Loll Sing, but if this is not already done it will now, I fear be too late

Captain Forbes has settled matters with Jugganant pater With respect to Sabla Sing act agreeably to my instructions of the 8th December If he should be obstinate and presume to make any resistance endeavour to lay hold of him, and hang him upon the spot for an example Should you meet with any difficulty Captain Forbes will be at hand to assist you

Half Batta is to be allowed to the Seapoys in the Junguls, the particulars you will be informed of by the inclosed extract from my letter of this date to Captain Forbes

Whatever Seapoys you have at Burraboom must act under the orders of the Bulramjore Samadars

I am etc
[G VANSITTART-]

No 510

MIDNAPORE,
8th January, 1770

To CAPTAIN FORBES.

DEAR SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 30th If you can lay hold of Bang Sing and Nun's negotiation with Loll Sing can be brought to a happy issue, there will certainly be no longer any occasion for your remaining in the Junguls, but till Nun's business is completed I apprehend that your returning might expose Gatsela Pergunna to fresh inroads from the Chuars, and give those fellows fresh spirits, of this, however, you are the best judge Whenever you think you may return, without exposing the country to the risk of further disturbances I shall be very glad to see you If you will give me a day or two's notice you shall find Bearers ready for you at Pertabpore Nun complains much of want of provisions, cannot you assist him from Huldepocur

You may draw half Batta for the Seapoys under yours and Nun's command, but you must charge it among the contingencies under the name of Gratuity, and the Seapoys are to regard it as indulgence not a matter of right. A list of the particulars you will transmit to the Paymaster in the same form as Batta Bills used to be drawn out. This indulgence is not to extend to the Seapoys at Bulrainpore, Chatna, Janpore and Ransing Gurr, which are a kind of fixed contonments, but may be allowed to those who will for the present be stationed at Huldypocur and Burraboom. When will your's and Nun's Bills be ready. Pearce is waiting of them.

I am, etc
[G VANSITTART]

P S—Inclosed are copies of a letter which I have just received from Nun and my answer. His business at Burraboom, you will observe is settled, so there can be no further occasion for your remaining at Huldypocur. If Nun meets with any difficulty at Ameynagar you may join him there, if not, you had better proceed directly to Midnapore.

[G VANSITTART]

No 511

MIDNAPORE
14th January, 1770

TO CLAUD RUSSELL ESQR,
Collector-General

SIR

I have been favoured with your letter of the 6th. I have finally settled the Tushkees on the terms which I proposed to you and am very happy that they meet with your approbation. Herewith you will receive the Midnapore Treasury Account for the month of December, with a Bill on the Pay-Master-General for Current Rupees 12 000 and also an Invoice of Treasure amounting to 50 000 Rupees Sicca weight which was dispatched the 9th Instant under charge of a Havildar and eight Seapoys.

The Disturbances in our Jungals will, I hope, be entirely settled before the end of this month.

I am, etc,
[G VANSITTART]

19th January, 1770

To CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq

DEAR SIR,

In my public letter to you of the 14th, I told you that I hoped the disturbances in our Junguls would be quieted before the end of this month I now send for your perusal the 4 last letters which I have received from Captain Forbes and the four last letters which have received from Lieutenant Nun These will inform you on what my hopes were founded and will at the same time shew you that they are now likely to be quite disappointed You will observe the misfortune which has happened to Lieutenant Nun by the sudden panick of his Seapoys and perhaps by a little too much security on his own part I have, moreover, intelligence from the Tahsildar and Zemindar of Gatseela that a party of about 20 Seapoys which were left by Captain Forbes at Coochung, two Coss from Huldypocur, have been cut off by treachery, and there is no doubt I think but Captain Forbes himself will be a good deal pestered amongst the Hills I have ordered Lieutenant Bateman with a complete Company of Seapoys to reinforce Lieutenant Nun, and have written to him to send back the sick and wounded to Midnapore

Pray be kind enough to communicate these particulars to Mr Cartier, and return the letters when you and he have perused them

I am etc,
[G VANSITTART]

No. 513

MIDNAPORE

19th January, 1770

To THE HONBLE JOHN CARTIER, ESQR, PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR

DEAR SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 17th In consequence of unexpected misfortunes which have been happened in our Junguls I have been obliged to order thither another complete Company of Seapoys and this has rendered our Garrison so extremely weak that I imagine you will scarcely think it possible for us to supply any escort for Lieutenant Carter, A party of about 20 Seapoys left in a small Fort by Captain Forbes have been entirely cut off Lieutenant Nun has been surprised amongst the Hills and Junguls by the Mountaineers His Seapoys were seized with a panick and betook themselves to flight A Serjeant, a Subadar and about 20 Seapoys were killed, himself another Subadar and about 40 Seapoys were wounded For further particulars I take the liberty of referring you to Mr Russell to whom I have written a circumstantial account of these occurrences etc

I am, Sir, etc,
[G VANSITTART]

MIDNAPORE :
23rd January, 1770

To CLAUD RUSSELL, ESQR,
Collector-General

SIR,

Herewith you will receive an account of the price of Rice at Midnapore for the year 1769 which I send in conformity to the orders transmitted last year from the Court of Directors, and the second set of the Midnapore Revenue Books from September 1768 to August 1769 The first set I had the pleasure of delivering to you in Calcutta to be forwarded to Europe, this second set is intended to be kept in Calcutta

I addressed you the 7th Instant on the subject of the duties upon Salt The present uncertain footing is equivalent to an embargo, the obstructions in the way deter every one from attempting to transport any Salt to Calcutta and consequently the Company would lose their duty this season Till I receive your orders therefore I intend in future to collect the 30 Per Cent at the Collaries and to grant Dastucks specifying that I have so done. A list of these Dastucks I purpose transmitting to you at the end of every month, and the amount collected I shall bring into our Treasury Account, and till some other plan is settled, I hope you will give orders that Salt furnished with these Dastucks should not be obstructed at any of the Chokies

I am, etc,
[G VANSITTART]

No 515

CALCUTTA
23rd Jan, 1770
[Recd 25th, do]

To G VANSITTART, ESQR,
From CLAUD RUSSELL ESQ,

[This letter relates to the method of collecting duties on salt, but about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the letter has broken away and been lost]

No 516

CALCUTTA
28th Jan, 1770
(Recd. 1st Feb)

To G VANSITTART, ESQ,

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 23rd and the books that accompanied it

On the subject of the Salt duties my letter of the 23rd instant will have solv'd all your—

I am, etc ,
 CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General

No 517

MIDNAPORE,
 29th January, 1770

TO THE HON'BLE JOHN CARTIER, ESQ

DEAR SIR,

Mr Carter arrived here yesterday and prepares setting out for Ballasore in three or four days I beg your Orders, therefore, as soon as possible, whether [it be] absolutely necessary that he should be furnished with a *Company of Seapoys from hence* If this can be dispensed with, without much inconvenience, I should be glad, as almost our whole Force is at present required for the Service of our Junguls If however you deem it really necessary that a Company should be furnished from hence, it shall be done immediately, and I will manage as well as I can.

I am, etc ,
 [G VANSITTART]

No 518.

MIDNAPORE
 31st January, 1770

TO THE HON'BLE JOHN CARTIER, ESQR ,

DEAR SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 26th I will make particular inquiry, and if I can procure any intelligence of any Jellamoota Ryots treated in the manner that Doulat Sing complains, they shall be speedily and fully redressed, but I must confess I much doubt the truth of what he has alleged, and I herewith inclose for your observation a copy of a letter which I received from him about a fortnight ago In the first part he says that he has ordered some Subbung Molungbies to be released from Jellamoota according to custom, in the latter part he complains that the people of the Subbung Zemindars have been making disturbances in Jellamoota by unjust demands upon some Ryots who had formerly worked (in former years) some Collaries in Subbung, and tells me that he had therefore sent them to me and that he begs I will do them justice In answer to this latter part I wrote him that whenever the Ryots he had sent arrived justice should certainly be done them, but I have heard nothing of them since With respect to the Subbung Molungbies mentioned in the former part of his letter, the Zemindars complain to me that notwithstanding his orders his Officers at Jellamoota will not yet release them

I should be obliged to you, therefore if you will direct him to enforce his orders with regard to the Subbug Molungbies, and either to deliver to you or transmit to me a more circumstantial account of this fresh grievance

I am, etc ,

[G VANSITTART]

No 519

MIDNAPORE,

6th February, 1770

To JOHN CARTIER, Esq

DEAR SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 2nd I must confess to you I do not think Lieutenant Nun's conduct can be acquitted of impudence and heedlessness, but at the same time as I look upon him to be in many respects a valuable Officer, I should be sorry if he was brought to any disgrace I am in hopes he will soon find an opportunity of taking his revenge unless the Chnars will consent to a full and satisfactory submission, which however, it is not improbable they may do as they have restored the Gun and some of the Firelocks which they had taken Captain Forbes joined him two days after the misfortune, but has since been obliged by a very severe fever to return to Midnapore Lieutenant Nun is now at Burraboom with three complete companies of Serpoys and Lieutenant Goodyar is marching to Huldypocur with two more, in order to secure the tranquility of that part of the country, and to call the Coochung Zemindar to an account for cutting off the party of Serpoys which Captain Forbes had left there Exclusive of these five Companies there is another Company and a half upon command in different places, and there is upwards of half a Company in the Hospital, so that even including the recruits, we have not three Companies to do duty in the Garrison I hope therefore, you are satisfied that I was induced by necessity only to desire you would excuse me from furnishing a party with Lieutenant Carter

In the last Indent for Stores for the use of this Garrison there was an article for 300 Stand of Arms and with this article the board could not then conveniently comply, but I must request it may now be done if possible for excepting which are with Lieutenants Goodyar and Nun there are not at present ten serviceable firelocks belonging to the Garrison and etc

No 520

MIDNAPORE,

7th February 1770

To LIEUT GOODYAR

SIR,

The Coochung Zemindar having treacherously cut off a party of Seapoys, which were left in his country by Captain Forbes, forced from their habitations

many of the Ryots of Huldypocur, a district belonging to the Pergunna of Gatseela, and put a stop to the collection of the Company's Revenue there ; you will be pleased to march to Coochung with all convenient expedition and take possession of the country, and till you hear further from me, collect the rents on Company's Account, and, if you can lay hold of the Zemindar or his brother Kirpasindoo or any others who were principally concerned in the death of the Seapoys, you will be pleased to send them prisoners to Midnapore, but it is not my intention that you should go anywhere in pursuit of them without the limits of Gatseela or Coochung. The Haldypocur Ryots you will encourage to resettle in their former habitations and remain firm in their allegiance to the Gatseela Zemindar. Hurry Churn, the former Tahsildar of Gatseela, will accompany you and assist you in the collection of the Rents of Coochung, and Panchanund, the present Tahsildar and the Zemindar will obey any orders you may give them, but I beg you will as much as possible avoid interfering with their authority over the Pergunna and be particularly carefull that the Seapoys, etc., be not guilty of any disturbances. With firewood they will be supplied during their march by the Zemindars, but for everything else they must pay at the market price.

I am, etc.,
[G. VANSITTART.]

No. 521.

MIDNAPORE :
13th February, 1770.

TO JOHN BATHOE, ESQR.,
Store Export Ware-House Keeper.

SIR,

Your letter of the 9th January was brought me a fortnight ago by Mullin Mohun Bysack, but he himself has not been here. When he comes, the weavers shall be put under his care in the manner that Mr. Cartier directs, and he shall receive from me every possible assistance for carrying on the Company's business.

I am, etc.,
[G. VANSITTART.]

No 522.

MIDNAPORE,
15th February, 1770.

TO CLAUD RUSSELL, ESQR.,
Collector-General.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 23rd and 28th January and have issued orders that the 50 per cent. should in future be collected before the Salt is removed from the Collaries.

Herewith you will receive Our Treasury Account for the month of January, with two Bills of Exchange on the Military Pay Master General
Viz:—

One from Lieut . Carter for Current Rupees 16,650.

„ „ Mr. Pearce for „ „ 15,000.

I am, &c.,

[G VANSITTART.]

No 523.

MIDNAPORE,
15th February, 1770.

TO CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq.

DEAR SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of 24th January Captain Forbes has been obliged by a very severe attack of a fever to return to Midnapore. Lieutenant Goodyar is marched with two companies to re establish the tranquility of the country about Huldypocur, and Lieutenant Nun remains with three Companies at Burraboom The Chuars have restored the Gun in hopes of peace, but after their late success, I deem it absolutely necessary that they should be quite submissive before they obtain it I have ordered the Gatsela Dewan to Midnapore to give an account of his conduct The Rajah complains of him as well as the Ryots

Hinchman brought me the map. I expect to have the pleasure of seeing you in Calcutta a fortnight or three weeks hence, and am, with esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

[G VANSITTART.]

No 524.

MIDNAPORE
21st February, 1770

TO LIEUTT . NUN.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 16th, and am much pleased with the prospect you have of being able to settle matters independently of Tirboobun Sing. I hope you will be able to accomplish it, as it will certainly be much preferable to any argument which could be made with him. If you can seize him, or get him delivered up to you, be pleased

to send him prisoner to Midnapore, and when every thing is adjusted at Burraboom you will leave a small party of Seapoys there to secure the tranquility of the Perganna, and return with the rest to Midnapore. I mean, however, that you should call upon Sribasing in the way, and settle matters between him and the Ameynagore Zemindar, agreeably to my letters of the 8th of December and 8th of January. A Jemadar and 20 Seapoys would, I imagine, be sufficient to leave at Burraboom but of this you and the Bulrampore Tannadar (under whose orders they are to remain when you return to Midnapore) will be the best judges.

I wrote to Mr. Cartier in your favour a fortnight ago, and I do not believe he will take any further notice of your misfortune, or be any way prejudiced against you but if he should I will let you know and a Court of Inquiry will be granted you, if you desire it.

I am Sir, etc,

[G VANSITTART]

No. 525

MIDNAPORE,

22nd February, 1770.

TO LIEUT GOODYAR.

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letters of the 10th and 13th, and am glad to hear of your arrival at Coochung without opposition. I doubt not, but with the encouragement you give them, the Ryots of that place and Haldypocar will soon settle peaceably in their former habitations. If any of the Coochung Ryots wish to remove into the Gatsela districts let them have full liberty to do so, it will be for the Company's interest. If the Rajah's presence is not materially useful to you, pray order him back to Rum Singgar to provide for the payment of his rents.

I wish you had been fortunate enough to lay hold of Bernaye or his brother. The expedition's march, which you made, bade very fair for Success, I think. The Sirdar Chnar, whom you have taken, you will be pleased to send prisoner to Midnapore. I would not choose that you should pursue Bernaye or his brother beyond the limits of Gatsela and Coochung. But I approve of your threatening the neighbouring Zemindars and endeavouring to deter them from granting those fellows their protection. Jugganaut Pater the Ooperbang Zemindar, has, I believe the justest claim to Coochung, but I am not yet determined to appoint him. Inquire of Hurry Churn and the Gatsela Rajah and the principal people about Haldypocar and Coochung and let me know whom you judge to be the properest person.

As you carried with you no more than 50 maunds of rice, it would be worth while at present to send a Sircar to you for the disposal of it. Let it be managed by Hurry Churn or by somebody on the part of Punahunand, the Tahsildar.

Inclosed is a list of some stores which I have sent you of the rope you want. There is none now ready. But I have ordered some to be made

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient and humble Servant,
[G VANSITTART]

The ladies are well and desire their compliments

P S —Inclosed is a list of some small charges belonging to your detachment which were paid by my Banyan. Be pleased to include them in your bills, and take care that the coolies, etc., who have received their wages be not paid over again

No 526

MIDNAPORE,
24th February, 1770.

TO THE HON'BLE JOHN CARTIER, ESQ

DEAR SIR,

As I know not who has the care of providing cloathing for the Midnapore Battalion of Seapoys, I take the liberty of troubling you to give the necessary orders for this year's cloathing to be sent The usual time is now past, and the Battalion is in great want of it

You have doubtless heard of Shubut's arrival at Cuttice I cannot procure any certain intelligence which way he went, but I am told by water.

Inclosed is a petition which the Dank Hircuras have requested me to transmit to you concerning their wages being reduced from Rs 10 to Rs 7.

I am, &c ,
[G VANSITTART.]

No 527.

CALCUTTA,
25th February, 1770
(Recd 26th do)

TO GEORGE VANSITTART, ESQ ,

SIR,

As many of our Battalions are very deficient in their compliment of men and as the Districts of Midnapore and Jellasore can furnish a number of good recruits, I desire that you would employ agents in the recruiting service, and raise a body about 64,800 men with the greatest expedition

I am, etc ,
JOHN CARTIER.

MIDNAPORE,
28th February, 1770

TO THE HON'BLE JOHN CARTIER, ESQR,
President and Governor of Fort William

HON'BLE SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 25th, and have, in consequence, directed Captain Forbes to raise the number of recruits you order. In the present scarcity of rice I believe it will be no great difficulty, but, as the inhabitants of this part of the country are in general rather low in stature I allow any to be received (on condition they are strong bodied men) who are five feet four inches high, which is the rule observed in the Battalion stationed here. I beg to know if you approve of this limitation, or what other you would choose to be observed. I beg to know also what you would have been done with the recruits when they are raised. Shall they be kept at Midnapore till the whole number is completed. Shall they be sent to Calcutta a hundred at a time, and to whom are they to be sent. About a hundred are now ready.

I am, etc

[G. VANSITTART]

No 529.

CALCUTTA,
3rd March, 1770.

TO JOHN PLEANCE.

SIR,

To provide against possible as well as probable events is the duty of every Government, for which reason I think it necessary to desire you would, on receiving this, order two of the Company's from your Battalion towards the great River, one to Ingles and the other to Kedgeroe, and each company to be commanded by an officer. My design in giving you this order it is necessary to explain, we have the strongest reason to suspect the views of the French towards this country. When these views may take place is a matter of much uncertainty but it is . . . hard. It is very likely and most certain when they do arrive, they will be in need of many things, which the country can amply supply, provisions draft and carriage bullocks, which to prevent their procuring any of these must be the object of these Detachments at Ingles and Kedgeroe by driving the cattle at least twenty miles inland or destroying them with other kinds of provisions which cannot be removed out of their reach. It is likewise expected from you on the first intelligence you may receive of an armament being in the River that the remaining part of the Battalion having immediately detached towards the River to harass any parties that may land, and the rendezvous at Coorherapatty.

I mean your Battalion. I apprehend it will be the most eligible situation they can take part in. Should their shipping pass the mouth of the Ganges, it may be likewise necessary for the Battalion not only to pass that river, but the mouth of the Dammodersaw and co-operate with any troops that may be posted on the other side, but this latter part will not be recommended should your Province be threaten'd by any immediate danger

To prevent any mistake in the officers commanding these detachments carrying the letter of their orders to an extreme, it is not intended preventing single foreign ships (French or Dutch) receiving every assistance of provisions which the country can afford

I am, etc
JOHN CARTIER

No. 530

CALCUTTA,
9th March, 1770
(Recd 11th do)

TO GEORGE VANSITTART ESQ

SIR,

I have duly received your Treasury Accounts for January with the bills enclosed in your letter of the 15th ultimo, and am (etc)

CLAUDE RUSSELL,
Collector General

No 531

MIDNAPORE,
19th March, 1770,

TO CLAUDE RUSSELL ESQR

DEAR SIR,

When I was in Calcutta in October I remember you told me that the Board intimated to the Council of Chandernagore that they must recall the French Gentlemen who were dispersed about the Country in the quality of Residents and that in consequence the chap who is at Moohunpore in my territories would travel back to Chandernagore I think it proper therefore to inform you that the chap is still at Moohunpore and has some Seapoyes with him

[G VANSITTART]

No 532

MIDNAPORE,
20th March, 1770To THE HON'BLE JOHN CARTIER, ESQR,
President and Governor and Council of Fort William

HON'BLE SIR & SIRS,

I have been favoured with your commands of the 6th instant, and shall pay strict attention to them. The Books of this Factory are already kept in Current Rupees

Inclosed I have the honour to transmit you an Indent for Stores for the use of the Garrison of Midnapore, and I request the favour you will order it to be complied with the arms in particular we are in great want of

I am, &c,
[G VASITTART]

No 533

MIDNAPORE,
31st March, 1770

To LIEUT NUN

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 15th, and am very glad that the disturbances at Burraboom are at length almost brought to a conclusion. I know not who Samzungin is. I never heard of him before, but I imagine he is not of consequence sufficient to render it necessary for you to remain with your Detachment merely on his account. The expence of your detachment is considerable, and, in the present scarce season I apprehend you must find it a difficult matter to procure provisions. If, therefore, the Bulrampore Tannadar and the Zemindar of Burraboom are of opinion that so large a force is no longer necessary for the security of the country, you will be pleased to take a Mutchucka from the Zemindar that he will be answerable for any disturbances, and, then, leaving a Jummadars Party for his assistance at Burraboom, you will return with the rest of your detachment to Midnapore. Agreeably to my letter of the 21st February, I shall set out for Dinagepore in 3 or 4 days. You will please, therefore, in future to correspond with Mr Pearce, and obey any orders you may receive from him. Inclosed is a Copy of a general order which was given out in this garrison on the 5th Instant, I send it you that you may cause it to be observed by your detachment.

I am Sir, etc.,
[G VASITTART]

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No 534.

TO LIEUT GOODYAR

MIDNAPORE.
5th April, 1770

SIR,

I have just received your letter of the 1st instant upon which I will give you my opinion more fully to morrow, with this you will only receive some medicines from the Doctor I am sorry for the fever you have if you find that you are not better upon receipt of this or should be at all apprehensive of any bad consequences pray inform me directly, that I may either send the Doctor to your assistance, or also Mr Bateman to relieve you that you may come in, but should your fever be too bad to admit of delay, I would advise you to set out immediately for Midnapore, leaving directions to the Subadars to act, under Hurry Churn upon the defensive only until such time another officer arrives to take the command.

The things you wrote for to Mr Bateman set off to morrow

The accompanying letters be pleased to forward.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient Servant

[No signature probably J. PEARCE]

No 535

6th April, 1770

TO LIEUT NUN

Sent the amount of his Bills Rs 1,542 13-2 exceeding in Rs 480 which he took from the Tannadar, etc

[J. PEARCE]

No 536

TO LIEUT GOODYAR

MIDNAPORE
8th April, 1770

SIR,

I received your favour of the 8th, I would by no means have you proceed against Baminhatti The Mohrbunge Rajah is Chief of both Baminhatti and Coochung and consequently may appoint whomever he pleases to be the Zemindars of those places, upon Goverdun Bernaick, the late Zemindar of Coochung's ill behaviour Mr Van Sittart wrote

to the Rajah to appoint some other person in Bernaicks stead, but upon his being dilatory in the appointment Mr Van had come to the resolution of appointing some body or other and he fixed upon Juggonaut, since which the Raja has wrote a letter informing of his having appointed his uncle Dusrutty Binge, the Zemindar of Baminhutti, to the Zemindar of Coochung In which case it is much better than the having Juggonaut appointed as the former will be much better able to support himself against competitors and without much of our assistance, therefore I am glad Juggonaut has not come to you I have a Vakeel here from the Mohrbunge Rajah and have directed him to send for the Naib Zemindar of Baminhutti to Midnapore His name is Balbudhar When he arrives, I shall finally settle the Coochung Zemindary along with him, in the meantime you will not proceed further to the confirming of Juggonaut till you hear from me I hope you have effectually drove away Kirpasindoo, and that he will trouble us no more I wish you could attach to our interest Souba Sing You have forgot to send in your Military Bills these two months

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient and humble Servant,
[Probably J PEIARCE]

P S—I hope you have got the better of your fever Please to forward the enclosed letters

Respecting your sick seapoys if you could send them to Ramsingur, I could order the Tannadar to send them from there, or else send Doolies for them

No 537

MIDNAPORE
10th April, 1770

TO RICHARD BARWELL, ESQ

Military Paymaster-General at Fort William

SIR,

I received your favour of the 2nd instant on the 6th The number of Tomtoms to each Company I believe is agreeable to the establishment. The Trumpeters shall be reduced to one to each Grenadier Company only for the future As the parties on command at considerable distance in the Western Junguls are to be advertised, the reductions shall appear in the accounts for May Is it your direction, Sir, that I withdraw the Wages and Batta allowed by Mr Vansittart for Lieutenant Nun's Moonshy Herewith you will please to receive the Military Accounts of this Factory for the month of March the account of Disbursement being Co Rs 13 300 I have drawn for your acceptance a Bill in favour of the Collector General, and am

Sir,

Your very obedient and humble Servant,

[J PEIARCE]

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• No 538.

MIDNAPORE,
11th April, 1770

TO THE HON'BLE JOHN CARTIER, ESQR,
President and Governor and Council at Fort William

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,

I have the honour to transmit you the Cash Account and Statement of the factory at Midnapore for the month of March, and remain with great respect,

Hon ble Sir and Sirs, your most etc ,
[J PEIARCE]

No 539

MIDNAPORE,
12th April, 1770.

TO CLAUD RUSSELL, ESQR,
Collector-General of Fort William

SIR,

Herewith be pleased to receive the Treasury account of Midnapore for the month of March, together with a Bill of Juggutram Dutt's upon Gocul Gosaul for Co Rs 15,000 The Military Pay Master Bill for Ct Rs. 13,300, being thro' mistake dispatched last night to the Military Pay Master General, I have requested the favour of Mr Barwell to transmit it to you, and am with great Esteem,

Sir, Your most obedient and humble servant,
[J. PELARCE.]

No 540

MIDNAPORE,
12th April, 1770

TO THE HON'BLE JOHN CARTIER, ESQR,
President and Governor in Council of Fort William

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,

Agreeable to your orders of the 6th March I have the honour to send you a copy of the Journal of the Midnapore Books for the month of March

I am Sir, etc ,
[J. PEIARCE.]

No. 541. .

TO THE HON'BLE JOHN CARTIER, ESQR.,
President and Governor of Fort William.

HON'BL SIR,

Herewith I have the honour to send to you an abstract of the expences at Midnapore factory for the month of March and remain with great respect,
Honourable Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant,
[J. PEIAROE.]

No. 542.

TO MR. JOHN PEIAROE,
Provl. Resident at Midnapore.

CALCUTTA,
24th April, 1770.
(Recd. 26th do.)

SIR,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 12th with March Treasury account and the bills mentioned to be enclosed. As the present scarcity of money makes it difficult to recover payment of private bills of exchange, I could wish your remittances to be as much in specie as possible.

I am etc.,
CLAUD RUSSEL,
Coll. Genl.

No. 543.

MIDNAPORE,
3rd May, 1770.
(Enclo.)

TO JOHN GRAHAM, ESQ.,
at Hooghly.

DEAR SIR,

I received your favour of the 25th on the 28th which should have been answered before, only that I waited for the return of an Express that I sent to Subbunry to bring me the particulars of the Molunghies which I herein enclose to you in Bengal and an Abstract of it I have sent in English. Mr. Dowlat Sing must have a very pretty stock of assurance to say that his Vakeel is here, or that he has been here, and rested the matter upon proofs that might appear. I can assure you there is no Vakeel here at present, nor has there ever yet been one to settle the dispute of the Molunghies. In one part of his assertion, Dowlat Sing, however, is right; and that is, in the Governor's writing to Mr. Vansittart. There was a letter came from the Governor, and inclosed I send you Mr. Van's answer to it, dated 31st January, 1770. And I believe upon perusal you will find Dowlat Sing had better left concealed the circumstance of the

complaint to Calcutta and the Governor's letter, as I perhaps should not have thought of examining the former letters upon a chance of finding something to the purpose.

You are well acquainted with the Government of Midnapore not to know the loss that must ensue to the Mohar and Subbanry Taalucdars, by any number of their Collaries lying unworked. The season is almost over, and without plaguing the Governor with repeated complaints (which I believe was hardly thought worth while), we stood no chance of ordering the Molunghies thro' Dowlat Sing's Impartiality. Therefore you will much oblige if you will order the release of the contested Molunghies, and, in case you suppose a false relation (of their having too merely worked) being made to me, be so good as to send an Ameen of your own, and the matters shall be settled (between Dowlat) and us. I have little news to tell you, but that yesterday by a letter received from Ganjam am informed that Col : Wood has paid Captain Lennox of the *Anson* £1000, for his passage. Now the day he was to embark the Nabob arrested him thro' the Mayor's Court for pagodas 45,000. Wood was left without house or furniture, and Lennox declared he would not return him a Shilling of the passage money. Hard times for favourites ! Adieu ! believe me very sincerely to be yours

[J. PEIARCE.]

No. 544.

CALCUTTA,
3rd May, 1770.
(Recd. 7th do.)

TO MR. JOHN PEIARCE,
at Midnapore.

SIR,

I have received the letter you addressed to Mr. Bathoe, Deputy Export Warehouse Keeper, under date 23rd ultimo and have, in consequence of the representation you have therein made, sent orders to Mooteram Mohan Bysaac to be careful in leaving a proper person as his deputy, with sufficient funds to enable him to carry on the Keerpoy assortments of cloth providing within your districts, whenever the Company's business shall require his personal attendance at Keerpoy. This measure will, I hope, not only put a stop to the desertions of the weavers, but, by a proper conduct on the part of the deputy so appointed, will induce those who have already deserted, to return.

I am, etc.,
CHARLES FLOYER,
E. W. H. KR.*

* Export Warehouse Keeper.

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No. 545.

CALCUTTA,
14th May, 1770.
(Recd. 17th do.)

TO MR. PEARCE,
Provl. Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

I am this day favoured with your letter enclosing last month's accounts and giving me the pleasing information of a lack of Treasure being on it way which will prove a most seasonable supply, and I hope you will soon be able to make another considerable despatch.

I am, (etc.,)
CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

No. 546.

FORT WILLIAM,
15th May, 1770.

TO MR. GEORGE VANSITTART.

SIR,

In compliance with your request in your letter of the 27th March last, we now inclose you an invoice of Military stores sent for the use of your Garrison in 4 boats under the charge of Yar Khan Havildar and 4 Sepoys.

We are (etc.),
JOHN CARTIER,
CLAUD RUSSEL,
CHARLES FLOYER,
JOHN REED,
F. HARE,
JOSEPH JERYLL,
THOMAS LANE.

Exd. E. B.
Secretary.

[The invoice is in part defaced. It amounts to Current Re. 8,323-12-0 and is signed L. Darell, Sub Accompt.]

(189)

No. 547.

(CALCUTTA),
20th May, 1770.
(Recd. 21st do.)

TO MR. PEIARCE.

SIR,

Mr. Baber put into my hands the letter which you wrote him the 17th instant. I shall only observe that the direction you have given to Mr. Bateman are practical and cautious. We must guard against precipitancy in unnecessary alarm. The distress for grain may oblige the French Council to establish magazines for the relief of a famished colony—it may belong to private persons. It is only having an eye upon it, and prevent its being used as a supply to any squadron, which they may send into this River—such a visit is possible, tho' not practicable, and if it should be made, the grain can easily be destroyed, and what cannot be destroyed the poor and necessitous in such a season as this would with encouragement soon carry it off.

I am, etc.,
JN. CARTIER.

No. 548.

CALCUTTA :
21st May, 1770.
(Recd. 1st June)

TO MR. JOHN PEIARCE.

SIR,

The Treasures agreeable to your invoice of the 11th instant having arrived yesterday, I herewith return you the escort which accompanied it.

I am, etc.,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

No. 549.

CALCUTTA :
2nd June, 1769

TO MR. GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

I am directed by the Collector-General to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th ult., enclosing the Treasury Account of your province for the month of April, and a bill of exchange upon the P. M. Gl. for Curr. Rs. 9,900.

I am, etc., etc.,
..... HOLME, Junior.

CALCUTTA :
8th June, 1770.

TO MR. PEIARCE.

SIR,

This will be deliver'd you by Mr. Loyd, who I have permitted to go to Midnapore for the recovery of a sum of money due to him from two black merchants resident in that Province. Without your help I am sensible nothing is to be done. Therefore I request it in his behalf, should he prove the lawfulness of his demand.

I am, etc.,
JOHN CARTIER.

No. 551.

CALCUTTA :
10th June, 1770.

TO MR. JOHN PEIARCE,
Provl. Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

The consideration of its being the duty of every Government to alleviate the sufferings of the poor in the time of a general calamity, such as the present, had induced the Board to authorize the Collector-General to distribute rice at Calcutta and Burdwan to real objects of distress at the Company's expense. At this time the effects of the calamity had not extended to the Districts of Midnapore, but as you have represented that they are now felt severely, the same means of relief became necessary, and you will therefore be pleased to act accordingly, taking care to deal with a sparing not a lavish hand. The sum allotted for Burdwan was about 20 or 25 Rupees per day in rice.

I am, etc.,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

(In Pencil—Copy sent to the Famine Committee, 25th April 1767.)

No. 552.

CALCUTTA :
June 18th, A. M., 1770.
(Recd. 19th do.)

TO MR. JOHN PEIARCE.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 16th. Circumstantial as your letter is in all particulars, I must say I really cannot give credit to them. However as they are of too much importance to neglect, I shall adopt every necessary measure, as if they were true. The silence of Mr. Allen at Cuttack at such a juncture is one reason for my thinking this piece of

intelligence without foundation : for tho' that gentleman is not always clear and correct in his intelligence, yet few things happen within his sphere, but what he immediately gives me intelligence. As this must have made such a buzz, the man must neither have ears nor head if he has not heard of it. Be pleased to let me hear from you by every opportunity, on this affair, that I may know whether other reports confirm or disprove your intelligence.

I am, etc.,

JOHN CARTIER.

Forward the enclosed to Allen immediately, and pray write to no person but myself on this subject.

No. 553.

CALCUTTA :

June 21st, 1770.

(Recd. 22nd do.)

TO MR. JOHN PEIARCE.

SIR,

Your Hircarrah arrived with me yesterday and confirms the intelligence you forwarded me the 16th instant, only with this variation, that he makes Cadjung lay to the southward instead of the northward of Outlack. He describes its situation, 15 miles to the northward of Juggenant.

I received a letter this day from Mr. Allen dated the 14th instant. He is totally silent on the subject, and appears to have a mind perfectly tranquil on the occasion. There are great improbabilities in the Hircarrah's story but it is of too serious a nature not to give it some attention, and what...the man can have in the deception I am at a loss to know, when the detection must bring upon him a very exemplary punishment. If you hear more, lose not a moments time in giving me information.

I am, (etc.),

JOHN CARTIER.

No. 554.

CALCUTTA :

July 10th, 1770.

(Recd. 11th.)

TO MR. J. PEIARCE.

SIR,

After the most accurate scrutiny into the matter wch. you communicated to me under date the 16th ultimo, I find the whole to be without the least shadow of foundation. Mr. Coxo has sometime ago informed you of the escape of the Hircarrah, a circumstance I much lament, as I full intended to have made an example of him. However I think he has such connection as must before long draw him into your Province again, when he may be seized on. Indeed the head Dawk Hircarrah at Midnapore ought to be made responsible for his appearance, and I recommend

No. 550.

CALCUTTA :

8th June, 1770.

To MR. PEIARCE.

SIR,

This will be deliver'd you by Mr. Loyd, who I have permitted to go to Midnapore for the recovery of a sum of money due to him from two black merchants resident in that Province. Without your help I am sensible nothing is to be done. Therefore I request it in his behalf, should he prove the lawfulness of his demand.

I am, etc.,

JOHN CARTIER.

No. 551.

CALCUTTA :

10th June, 1770.

To MR. JOHN PEIARCE,

Provl. Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

The consideration of its being the duty of every Government to alleviate the sufferings of the poor in the time of a general calamity, such as the present, had induced the Board to authorize the Collector-General to distribute rice at Calcutta and Burdwan to real objects of distress at the Company's expense. At this time the effects of the calamity had not extended to the Districts of Midnapore, but as you have represented that they are now felt severely, the same means of relief became necessary, and you will therefore be pleased to act accordingly, taking care to deal with a sparing not a lavish hand. The sum allotted for Burdwan was about 20 or 25 Rupees per day in rice.

I am, etc.,

CLAUD RUSSELL,

Collector-General.

(In Pencil—Copy sent to the Famine Committee, 25th April 1767.)

No. 552.

CALCUTTA :

June 18th, A. M., 1770.

(Recd. 19th do.)

To MR. JOHN PEIARCE.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 16th. Circumstantial as your letter is in all particulars, I must say I really cannot give credit to them. However as they are of too much importance to neglect, I shall adopt every necessary measure, as if they were true. The silence of Mr. Allen at Cuttack at such a juncture is one reason for my thinking this piece of

intelligence without foundation : for tho' that gentleman is not always clear and correct in his intelligence, yet few things happen within his sphere, but what he immediately gives me intelligence. As this must have made such a buzz, the man must neither have ears nor head if he has not heard of it. Be pleased to let me hear from you by every opportunity, on this affair, that I may know whether other reports confirm or disprove your intelligence.

I am, &c.,

JOHN CARTIER.

Forward the enclosed to Allen immediately, and pray write to no person but myself on this subject.

No. 553.

CALCUTTA :

June 21st, 1770.

(Recd. 22nd do.)

TO MR. JOHN PEIARCE.

SIR,

Your Hircarrah arrived with me yesterday and confirms the intelligence you forwarded me the 16th instant, only with this variation, that he makes Cadjung lay to the southward instead of the northward of Cuttack. He describes its situation, 15 miles to the northward of Juggernaut.

I received a letter this day from Mr. Allen dated the 14th instant. He is totally silent on the subject, and appears to have a mind perfectly tranquil on the occasion. There are great improbabilities in the Hircarrah's story but it is of too serious a nature not to give it some attention, and what...the man can have in the deception I am at a loss to know, when the detection must bring upon him a very exemplary punishment. If you hear more, lose not a moments time in giving me information.

I am, (etc.),

JOHN CARTIER.

No. 554.

CALCUTTA :

July 10th, 1770.

(Recd. 11th.)

TO MR. J. PEIARCE.

SIR,

After the most accurate scrutiny into the matter wh. you communicated to me under date the 16th ultimo, I find the whole to be without the least shadow of foundation. Mr. Cox has sometime ago informed you of the escape of the Hircarrah, a circumstance I much lament, as I full intended to have made an example of him. However I think he has such connection as must before long draw him into your Province again, when he may be seized on. Indeed the head Dank Hircarrah at Midnapore ought to be made responsible for his appearance, and I recommend

it to you The Hircarraws you have in the Cuttack Country ought all be suspected after this as being parties concerned, for it seems the one who calls himself the Sirdar even confirmed by writing to you the intelligence wch. the other Hircarraws brought you.

Reports of this nature may frequently be attended with ill consequences, and it is too probable many such will be propagated, if the authors of them meet not with their true deserts—this would have proved one of those had it circulated.

I am, etc ,

JOHN CARTIER.

The Detachments from the Midnapore Batalion at Inglee and Kidguree I think may be called in, as certainly during the rains nothing may be apprehended. However, concerning this I will hereafter write.

No. 555.

CALCUTTA :

11th July, 1770.

(Recd. 16th do)

To J. PEIAROE.

SIR,

The Detachments from the Midnapore Batalion out on command at Ingelee and Kedgerree I am to desire you will recall, and order them to join their Batalion

I am, etc ,

JOHN CARTIER.

No. 556.

FORT WILLIAM :

13th July, 1770.

(Recd. 10th August.)

To G. VANSITTART, Esq ,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR

We are in want of the duplicates of your Factory Journal and Ledger from the year 1766 to 1767, and from the year 1768 to 1769, and direct you to furnish us with them as soon as possible.

We are, etc ,

JOHN CARTIER,

CHARLES FLOYER,

JOHN REED,

JOSEPH JERYLL,

THOMAS LANE,

RICHARD BARWELL.

Exd. E. B.

Secretary.

it will appear irregular your construing silence into a sanction for putting the Company to an expense, I herewith send you an order which is purposely anti-dated, and as this will render the 2nd para. of your last letter unnecessary I have return'd it likewise that in case you think proper, you may make an alteration. You may at the same time mention the bill of Exch. I therefore enclose yours of the 12th also. I am sorry to give you this trouble.

I am, etc.,
C. RUSSELL

P. S.—I must request you'll favour me with a copy of your letter of the 5th June.

No. 560.

CALCUTTA:
25th July, 1770.
(Recd. 27th do.)

TO MR. PEIARCE,
at Midnapore.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 22nd enclosing invoice of a despatch of Treasure, which will be a most seasonable supply.

I am, etc.,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

No. 561.

FORT WILLIAM:
2nd August, 1770.
(Recd. 1st Sept.)

TO MR. GEORGE VANSITTART,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

The Sub-Accomptant having represented to us the necessity of making an alteration in the monthly statement sent from the several Factories to the Presidency, and having delivered in a new form agreeably to the directions of the Hon'ble Company, we enclose the same to you, desiring that it may be followed in future; and we also enclose a copy of the Sub-Accomptant's letter to us for your information and instruction.

As some of your accounts may at first take time in collecting and preparing, you will get them drawn out and send them to us in time to be

examined and inserted in the general statements, which are to go home by the first ship.

We are, etc.,
JOHN CARTIER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
JOHN REED,
THOMAS LANE,
RICHARD BARWELL.

No. 562.

CALCUTTA :
3rd August, 1770.
(Recd. 5th do.)

TO MR. J. PEIARCE,
Midnapore.

SIR,

I have the pleasure to acquaint you with the arrival this morning of the Treasure accompanying your letter of the 22nd of last month and am, (etc.,)

CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

No. 563.

CALCUTTA :
6th August, 1770.
(Recd. 16th do.)

TO MR. JOHN PEIARCE,
Provisional Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

The Treasure, 17 chests, agreeable to your invoice of the 22nd ultimo having arrived here the 3rd instant, I herewith return you the escort which accompanied it and am, (etc.,)

CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

No. 564.

FORT WILLIAM :
7th August, 1770.
(Recd. 13th do.)

TO MR. EDWARD BABER,
Resident of Midnapore.

SIR,

The Sub-Accomptant having represented to us that the General Books are in great forwardness, and might be ready in time to go home by an

early ship, you are hereby directed to send down the books of your Factory as soon as possible that the General Books may be completed so as to be sent home by the first despatch

We are, etc ,
JOHN CARTIER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
JOHN REED,
F HARE,
JOSEPH JEKYLL,
RICHARD BARWELL

No 565

FORT WILLIAM
10th August 1770
(Recd 12th do)

TO MR EDWARD BABER,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

By order of the Hon'ble the President and Council I beg leave to remind you of the directions they sent you the 11th of October last for transmitting to them an account of the net charges of your Factory according to the form prescribed in the 59th paragraph of the Company's Letter dated the 20th November 1767, and to desire it may be sent in time to arrive by the 25th instant as the *Prince of Wales* will certainly sail very early in September.

I am, etc ,
W WYNNE
Secretary

No 566

CALCUTTA
16th August, 1770
(Recd 18th do)

TO MR. JOHN PEIAROE,
at Midnapore

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 10th enclosing last month's Treasury Account with two bills on the Military Pay Master General, amounting together to C Rs 15,050, I hope you will soon make another remittance in specie to Calcutta

On the subject of the Moratta claim for duties mentioned in your letter of the 5th of June, the Governor has *not yet received an answer to a representation he immediately made of the affair to the Soubah of Onttag*, but you will know if it has produced any change in the behaviour of the Shawbunder Zemindar.

I am, etc.,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

No. 567.

CALCUTTA :
20th Sept., 1770.
(Recd. 30th do.)

TO J. PEARCE,

SIR,

I have been duly favoured with your letters of the 29th of August, 1st, 16th and 17th of this month, and congratulate with you on furnishing the collections for the year 1177 without any ballance remaining, besides what was deferr'd till this year on account of the draught, which I recommend to your attention.

I am, etc.,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

[In pencil. Copy sent to the Famine Committee 26th April, 1767.]

No. 568.

CALCUTTA :
23rd Sept., 1770.
(Recd. 28th do.)

TO MR. J. PEARCE,
at Midnapore.

SIR,

I desire you will please to transmit me as soon as possible an account of the *mediam price of rice from September 1768 to September 1769 and from that time to September instant inclusive*. Also an account of salt dutys which have been collected in the Midnapore Province commencing from the first establishment of the 30 per cent. duty to the present time together with an account of the Khalarys which have been employ'd and the salt they have annually produc'd during that period.

early ship, you are hereby directed to send down the books of your Factory as soon as possible that the General Books may be completed so as to be sent home by the first despatch.

We are, etc.,
JOHN CARTIER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
JOHN REED,
F. HARE,
JOSEPH JEKYLL,
RICHARD BARWELL.

No. 565.

FORT WILLIAM :
10th August, 1770.
(Recd. 12th do)

TO MR. EDWARD BABER,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

By order of the Hon'ble the President and Council I beg leave to remind you of the directions they sent you the 11th of October last for transmitting to them an account of the net charges of your Factory according to the form prescribed in the 59th paragraph of the Company's Letter dated the 20th November 1767, and to desire it may be sent in time to arrive by the 25th instant as the *Prince of Wales* will certainly sail very early in September.

I am, etc.,
W. WYNNE,
Secretary.

No. 566.

CALCUTTA :
16th August, 1770.
(Recd. 18th do.)

TO MR. JOHN PEIARCE,
at Midnapore.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 10th enclosing last month's Treasury Account with two bills on the Military Pay Master General, amounting together to C. Rs. 15,050, I hope you will soon make another remittance in specie to Calcutta.

On the subject of the Moratta claim for duties mentioned in your letter of the 5th of June, the Governor has not yet received an answer to a representation he immediately made of the affair to the Soubah of Cuttack, but you will know if it has produced any change in the behaviour of the Shawbunder Zemindar.

I am, etc.,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

No. 567.

CALCUTTA :
20th Sept., 1770.
(Recd. 30th do.)

TO J. PEARCE,

SIR,

I have been duly favoured with your letters of the 29th of August, 1st, 16th and 17th of this month, and congratulate with you on furnishing the collections for the year 1777 without any ballance remaining, besides what was deferr'd till this year on account of the draught, which I recommend to your attention.

I am, etc.,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

[In pencil. Copy sent to the Famine Committee 26th April, 1767.]

No. 568.

CALCUTTA :
23rd Sept., 1770.
(Recd. 28th do.)

TO MR. J. PEARCE,
at Midnapore.

SIR,

I desire you will please to transmit me as soon as possible an account of the medium price of rice from September 1768 to September 1769 and from that time to September instant inclusive. Also an account of salt duties which have been collected in the Midnapore Province commencing from the first establishment of the 30 per cent. duty to the present time together with an account of the Kbalarys which have been employ'd and the salt they have annually produc'd during that period.

Upon examining the Midnapore Treasury Accounts for last year, I observe the Presidency is debted in October 1769 for a bill on the Military Paymaster General amounting to Sicca Rs. 10,344-13-3 or Current Rs. 12,000, which not having been paid, I conclude it either has not been sent or (which is most probable) that the Catchery people have mislaid it, as bills often remain long in their hands owing to the frequent low state of the Treasury. You will therefore please to forward me a second bill of the same tenor as soon as possible.

I am, etc.,
 CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

No. 569.

CALCUTTA :
 27th Sept., 1770.
 (Recd. 30th do.)

TO MR. EDWARD BABER,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

I am favoured with your letter of the 21st advising me of your having taken charge of your Residency in which I wish you all success

Last year the collection of Rs. 27,000 was deferred till the present year on account of the drought, as some relief to the ryatts This I hope you will now soon be able to recover from the present favourable appearance of the crops upon the ground.

I am, etc.,
 CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

No 570.

CALCUTTA :
 16th Octr., 1770.
 (Recd. 19th do.)

TO MR. BABER.

SIR,

I am, favoured with your letter No 3, with the several enclosures, and request you will transmit me monthly with your accounts a register of the Salt Rowanas issued, agreeable to the enclosed form.

I am, etc.,
 CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

The last despatch of Treasury turning out 168 Rupees Sicca short of the chelan, I enclose the Midnapore Podar's declaration accounting how it

has happened which you will be pleased to enquire into, and acquaint me whether he is to be answerable for it.

No. 571.

CALCUTTA :
20th Octr., 1770.
(Recd. 22nd do.)

TO EDWARD BABER ESQ.,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

I have received your letter No. A., with last month's Treasury Account.

I am, etc.,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
Collector-General.

No. 572.

FORT WILLIAM :
31st Octr., 1770.
(Recd. 9th November.)

TO MR. EDWARD BABER,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We enclose you extracts from the Company's General Letter by the *Mansfield* relative to the investment to which we must require a strict attention and compliance as far as they concern that part of the Investment provided at your Factory.

We are, etc.,
JOHN CARTIER,
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FLOYER.

*Extracts from the General Letter from Europe per Mansfield dated
23rd March 1770*

Para 22 As the matter of investment is of the greatest importance to our interest because on that alone depends our Prosperity and Existence, we have bestowed very great attention to the goods which answer best at this market You will find our observations at large in the list of investment, and we particularly recommend to you to encourage the growth of that Silk and the manufacture of those goods which appear on the list of investment to be most in demand at this market

Para 35 Notwithstanding we have repeatedly complained of great defects in providing and assorting your investment of Piece Goods, yet as those complaints still subsist, whereby our Sales here are greatly prejudiced we have thought it expedient in order to prevent them in future to appoint Mr Henry Guinand, who is perfectly acquainted with the sortments proper for the European Markets to be Superintendent of Piece Goods under your Presidency at the Salary of Four Hundred Pounds a year to commence upon his arrival, also Twenty Pounds per Calendar Month, for subsistence instead of Diet Money, and he is to have all his Travelling Charges defrayed in going from one Place to another in India We have paid the Expence of his Passage out, and he is also to be allowed the expence of his voyage home, as stipulated in his agreement with the Company of which we send a copy, and it is our positive order that he be neither permitted to Trade for himself or to procure goods of any kind, either directly or indirectly, for any other persons whatever, and we shall severely resent the least disobedience of this order

Para 36 The Principal defects which are pointed out and which Mr. Guinand has undertaken to rectify are the great mixture of sorts in the same Bale, the want of variety and novelty in all Flowered, Striped and checked Muslins, also in all coloured Prohibited Goods The neglect of providing sundry species of Muslins and other goods imported by Foreign Companies with great profit, and the small investment of superfine muslins much in demand for Foreign and Home Trade, and the inferior quality of Sundry Sorts of Muslins annually degenerating so much as not to answer their denomination. You must, therefore, to further our views in this important Branch of our Commerce, by employing Mr Guinand in such manner as to answer the ends of his appointment either by his overlooking and sorting the Bales as they are received into the Export Warehouse at Calcutta, or by his taking the Circuit of the aurungs, and instructing the persons there in what manner the goods should be manufactured and sorted for their exportation to Europe

Para 38 We have observed in our investment this year the great inattention of the Sorters at many Places in suffering Goods to be packed of different qualities and species in the same Bale as also others, rotten or damaged in the middle of the Piece This is so great a neglect of their duty, that we order the Native in whose immediate Department the goods have been found faulty be directly dismiss'd our service, and also that the Chief Ware House Keeper of that department be reprimanded as by this inattention it has already been a great charge to us by the Buyers examining every Piece in many Bales, and returning those which they find

to be damaged and, if this is not remedied in future, it will give such discredit to the goods, that the Buyers will open all the Bales to examine every piece, which will amount to an immense sum in Labor To prevent which in future, we direct that every piece be examined over a roller, before it is packed, the species of goods and places they have been received from are as follows, viz :

Goods Damaged etc., in Holes.

Baftaes	...	...	<i>BÆF</i> <i>FBÆ</i>	} Islamabad.
Emmerties	...	...	<i>ER</i> <i>FER</i> <i>NER</i> <i>NFER</i>	
Laccowries	...	...	<i>LAC</i>	} Patna.
Mammoodies	...	...	<i>MAI</i>	
Gurrahs	...	...	<i>Gur</i>	Soonamokie Aurung.

Goods Mixt.

Cossaes	...	...	<i>BC o SM.</i>	Maulda Aurung.
Mulmuls	...	...	<i>Mul Rad</i> <i>BMul</i> <i>Muls</i>	} Santipore.
Seerbettees	...	...	<i>Seer B.^e</i> <i>M See B.^e</i> <i>F Seer B.[†]</i>	
				Dacca.

Para 42 And we further direct that at every Subordinate Factory, District, or other Place whatever, where Putney may be provided for our investment, accounts be duly kept of whatsoever Species of Silk produced at such Subordinate Factory, or District, distinguishing particularly what quantity may be fit for our investment as fine Silk and also of Ferrit which may be found proper to send hither, and of such refuse Silk as must of necessity be rejected, ascertaining thereby as near as may be the whole produce of the country and that such account be regularly entered on your Consultations at the close of every Bund for our information It is also our pleasure that you take the greatest care to prevent those who may have the inspection of the Putney from rejecting any under the name of refuse Putney which shall not be absolutely unfit to be sent to Europe under the denomination of Ferrit Silk And if you should at any time discover that any Fraud or Collusion whatever be practised, by those who may have the care of this Business whereby Ferrit Silk may be deem'd unfit for the European market when it actually is not so We direct that you forthwith dismiss from our Service every person of whatever Rank or Station who may be found unfaithful in a matter which we deem of great consequence, and do, therefore, so particularly charge you effectually to carry into Execution

Para 45 You are to take care at the commencement of every Bund or oftener, that at all your Subordinates or Factories, when advances are made to Pykars, each Pykar be called before the Chief of the Subordinate and Council, or the Resident and two others at least of our Servants next in authority, if so many reside at such Factory, where any Advances may be issued to the said Pykars, and that to each of the Pykars separately a copy be delivered of their outstanding Balances, if any such there be, with a particular account of the advance last made to them, and they are to be examined whether they have actually received the amount for which they are debited, and care must also be taken that the answers of each Pykar respectively thereto be entered at large and transmitted to you, which must also be entered on your Consultations immediately for our information This mode of proceeding is on no account to be neglected or discontinued, and by which means those Frauds and oppressions formerly practised by the Sircar PayMasters or their Banyans in detaining part of the advances in their own hands and obtaining from the Pykars receipts for the whole, will we hope be prevented in future

Para 46 The complaints of the Chassars against the Pykars should be very carefully attended to, every prudent means should be used to restore Harmony between those who are so immediately and mutually concerned in the provision of our investment If the Chassars are oppressed relief should be administered, yet in such manner if possible as not to lessen the influence of our Pykars with those Persons on whom the investment principally depends Such of the Pykars, who do not honestly pay the Chassars but leave a balance due at the close of the Bund to those who rear the worms, or wind the Silk, deserve severe Reprehension for misusing our advances made to them, and are by no means worthy your confidence in future. You will by diligent enquiry soon inform yourselves if this be the case, and take such measures thereupon as may effectually prevent hindrance being given to our investment by the mismanagement of the Company's Pykars

Para 48 We do not approve that part of your order to Subordinates which enjoins implicit obedience to be paid by the Residents at our several Factorys to the orders of y^e Chief of a Subordinate It is our pleasure that all orders that require implicit obedience be issued not by the Chief singly

but by the Chief and Council, and that all orders given answers received, etc., all other proceedings whatever relative to our investments be not communicated by the Chief to the Council, but by the *Chief and Council* do issue such orders and that all remonstrances and answers thereto be addressed not to the *Chief alone* but to the Chief and Council of such subordinate respectively from whom the orders may have been issued, or in extraordinary cases, to the Governor and Council of Calcutta, and we direct that immediately on receipt hereof, you transmit a Copy of this our order to every Subordinate and Factory within your Presidency, and that it may be an invariable Rule to be observed in Future by all our Servants at every such Subordinate and Factory

A true Copy,
W. WYNNE,
Secretary

No 574

CHANDERNAGORE,
8th November, 1770

TO THE HON'BLE JOHN CARTIER, ESQR,
President and Governor & the Gentlemen of Council of Calcutta.

GENTLEMEN,

We regret we see ourselves obliged to bring you complaints against Mr Baber, your Agent at Midnapore, and to demand of you a just satisfaction for the grievous insult which he has committed upon one of our Agents named Mr Laurent. He was sent by us with an escort of 4 sepoys to make a tour in the surroundings of Canicola Kerpoy, Monnepore, and Balasore for the regulation of the Company's affairs, and the hastening the despatch of merchandize, which we wait for from these different places. In passing by Midnapore, on his way to Monnepore, he thought of paying a visit to Mr Baber, and accordingly went. He was on his arrival receiv'd politely until Mr Baber, having taken him into his closet, demanded from him on whose part he came, and from whom he had permission. Mr Laurent answer'd him that he was sent by the Council of Chandernagore to Monnepore on the Company's business. "But has the Council of Chandernagore obtain'd the consent of the Council of Calcutta?" reply'd Mr Baber immediately. "No person has a right to come here accompanied by sepoys, and I have orders which far from permitting me to let you pass with your's require on the contrary that I stop them and detain them in the Fort. You may, however, continue your route and if you have need of them for an escort for your security, I will give you one from this Garrison."

Mr Laurent surprized, not without reason at so strange a proceeding and discourse, replied that he was ignorant of the right he had to forbid him, and to stop the four sepoys which he had in his train, that for the rest, having the power in his hands, he might act in this affair as should seem good unto him, that as for himself he absolutely would not have the English

We cannot help observing that from this relation of circumstances you appear to us to have acted improperly in interrogating and menacing the French Agent, whose escort, merely sufficient for his protection, can't cause no disturbances in the Country, and the French have undoubtedly a right to send their Agents to the different Jurungs for the protection and encouragement of their trade, without any hindrance or molestation on our parts

These little feuds serve only to preserve a spirit of jealousy and ill will between the two nations, without conducing to the advantage of our affairs in the smallest degree

We are etc,
JOHN CARTIER
SAML MIDDLETON
CLAUD RUSSELL

No 576

FORT WILLIAM,
20th November, 1770
(Recd. 30th do)

TO MR EDWARD BABER,
Resident at Midnapore

SIR,

Enclosed we send you a list of the investments to be provided at your Factory with the remarks and observations of the Hon'ble Court of Directors upon the investment sent home last season, to which the strictest obedience and attention is to be paid

We are etc,
JOHN CARTIER
CLAUD RUSSELL,
CHARLES FLOYER

No 577

CALCUTTA,
23rd November, 1770
(Recd 25th do)

TO MR BABER,
Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

I have received your letters of the 11th and 20th

The custom of the gentoos must be observed in the succession to the Zemindary of Cossijurah, and if you find the late Rajah's brother the rightful heir, I have the Governor's sanction to acquaint you that he must be the successor.

I am, etc ,

CLAUD RUSSELL

No 578

FORT WILLIAM,
12th December, 1770

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Hon'ble the East India Company have been pleased to lay open the Trade in Salt, Beetle Nut, and Tobacco throughout these Provinces, and that all persons, whether Europeans or others, are hereby permitted to engage in it subject to the regulations already in force and to such others as may be hereafter made by the Hon'ble the Members of Administration

By order of the Hon'ble the President and Council,

(Signed) W WYNNE,

Secretary

No 579

FORT WILLIAM,
20th December, 1770
(Recd 2nd March)

TO EDWARD BABER, ESQR ,

Resident at Midnapore.

SIR,

We have in compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble Company by the *Mansfield* resolved on laying open the trade in Salt, Beetle Nut, and Tobacco, and have accordingly published an advertisement at the Presidency a copy of which we enclose and we direct that you do on receipt of this letter, issue a like publication at your Factory

We are, etc ,

JOHN CARTIER,

CLAUD RUSSELL,

CHARLES FLOYER,

FRAS HARE,